WORLD / A25
Autopsies suggest Air France jet broke up in sky

ACROSS / A21
SC's mobile court frees 84 inmates in Legazpi, Albay, jails

ACROSS / A19
US colonel confirms for 1st time alien JI operatives in Sulu

ENTERTAINMENT / F4
Denzel Washington picks his champs: Pacquiao, Lakers

Pacman No. 6 on richest athletes' list

FILL OUT. CLIP. SEND:

NEWS / A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, June 19, 2009 ★ Vol. 24 / No. 191 online: www.inquirer.net

FROM RING ICON TO GLOBAL SUPERstar. From multimillionaire to billionaire.

Manny Pacquiao affirmed his status as one of the brightest lights in the boxing firmament with his first ever appearance on Forbes magazine's list of world's highest-paid athletes this year.

Cashing in mainly on his devastating victories over former boxing Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya and British idol Ricky Hatton, Pacquiao ranked ninth in Forbes' elite cast with estimated earnings of $40

PACMAN, A1

'Stop titillating nation'

FVR to GMA: Tell us your political plan

Among Ed tells Mikey: Go ahead, run

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio yesterday challenged Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo to run as governor, saying Kapampangans are sure that dumb to elect him.

Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, said a growing number of Kapampangans were seeing the possible rigodon of the Arroyos—Mikey as governor and President Macapagal-Arroyo as representative—as an attempt to cling to power.

"I am, in fact, encouraging him to run as governor so that he will have a gauge that is reflective of the majority of our Juanitos (province mates)," Panlilio said.

ARROYO, A14

By Tina G. Santos

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS YESTERDAY TOLD President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop titillating the nation and declare her political intentions after her term ends next year.

"Dictatorships, monopolies, and dynasties do not endure. Neither do self-serving and distrusted national leaders," Ramos warned in a leadership forum at Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

In his strongest blast yet since he slammed the "unelected" and "dictation" that accompanied the May 28 merger of Kampi-Lakas-CMD administration parties, Ramos joined the snowballing opposition to the convening of a Senate-less constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the Constitution.

Critics say the initiative to adopt the parliamentary system is aimed at perpetuating Mr. Arroyo in power.

"With previous time fleeting, PGMA must now make a clear and positive declaration to our people that she as President will transform herself and the nation, and not anymore delude our people ... with ti-

THE TITILLATIONS. stop it already, says ex-President Fidel V. Ramos. AGUINALDO/PHOTO

rifications about Con-ass and her future role as a Pampanga representative come July 1, 2010," Ramos said.

Ramos said that street protests by cause-oriented groups and ordinary Filipinos plus their manifestations of discontent, anger and outrage toward the administration must be seen as people's hunger for freedom from poverty, deprivation and bad governance.

"With 2010 fast approaching, our people are again clamoring for good governance under the rule of law from those we elected to lead us," he said.

"The challenge to be confronted and fulfilled is a higher quality of life for all Filipinos—the easiest the better," he added.

Ramos, 81, a former general and a key

STOP, A10

JAPAN'S Emperor Akihito receives President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Mike Arroyo at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Thursday. This is the third time the royal couple receives Ms. Arroyo at the Palace in the eight years she has been in office. She also meets with the Japanese chamber of commerce to appeal for more investments in the Philippines, creating more jobs in preparation for the economic rebound. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

'Black prank' played on Chiz, Loren at Senate

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHO'S BEHIND THE STICKERS MARKED "Chiz Loren sa 2010" that were distributed yesterday in Senate reporters?

Not his, Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero said in the course of announcing that he intended to grill officers of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and Smartmatic-Total Information Management Corp., which he discovered to be registered in Barbados, a known "tax haven."

Smartmatic, the winner of the contract to automate next year's elections, was named as the donor in the "Chiz-Loren sa

BLACK PRANK, A10

JOSE RIZAL: 148TH ANNIVERSARY

Rizal house is painted green; people see red

HUE AND CRY
In his hometown in Calamba, Laguna, Rizal's townmates collectively express dismay that their one and only treasure, the hero's ancestral home turned shrine, now looks like a "disco house with neon colors," among other things being said of the Rizal house. "It's embarrassing," say the locals who struggle to explain to tourists and students on educational tours why a hallowed memorial "looks like a cake." VINO ALIMAGNO/PDI

By Marissar P. Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA CITY—THE HOUSE of National Hero Jose Rizal has been getting paired attention since it was painted green last month.

In text messages, e-mails and phone calls, residents based in the city called provinces and abroad have expressed "shock" and "horror" over the new color of the balay na bato.

"We don't like it," declared Linda Lazaro, a school teacher in her 70s and a member of the Rizal Day committee for the past 15 years.

"The house symbolizes Rizal and [the paint job] is an insult to his memory," she said.

The house, now a shrine, was

RIZAL HOUSES, A11

Rizalian solutions today

By Dr. Pablo S. Trillana III
Former Chair of the National Historical Institute and Knights Grand Officer of the Knights of Rizal

COMMENTARY

"THE COUNTRY IS poor; it is going through a great financial crisis, and everybody points with their fingers to persons who are causing the evil, and yet no one dares to lay their hands on them."

Words from yesterday's newspaper editorial? Guess again. They were written in 1889 by Dr. Jose Rizal, whose 148th birth anniversary we are celebrating today. He made that cutting remark some

RIZALIAN, A11

64 new swine flu cases; QC school closed

By Julie M. Aurelio, Beverly T. Nadividad and Inquirer Visayas

ANOTHER SCHOOL IN QUEZON CITY has suspended classes for 10 days following the confirmation that one of its students is positive for the Influenza A(H1N1) virus.

Dr. Antonietta Inumerable, city health officer, identified the school as Dr. Alejandro Roces High School on Roces Avenue.

"The suspension for 10 days began on Wednesday when the school was able to confirm it was an A(H1N1) case very late Wednesday afternoon," Inumerable told the Inquirer yesterday.

The victim, a fourth-year high school student, is now confined at a hospital.

Starting this morning, a private school, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong (LSM), is canceling its classes because one of its students is infected with the virus.

On Tuesday, Lagro Elementary School suspended its classes after two of its students contracted the flu virus.

Other schools with recently confirmed A(H1N1) cases include the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College.

The Department of Health (DOH) con-

64 NEW, A6

To hell and back: A(H1N1) positive and trapped at RITM

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

JUNE 15—GABRIEL, 18, MY grandson, has run a high fever for three days. He and three more from our household, including myself, head for the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang, Muntinlupa, arriving there at 8:30 p.m.

Gabriel's nasal swab taken three days before, show him to be positive for A(H1N1). As if that weren't bad enough, he has dengue fever. On the promise that Gabriel will be quarantined at home, he is gi-

TO HELL, A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

SUERTRES* 6 0 4 | 2 2 5 | 6 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 7 9 5

7 11 21 30 39 40

P35,003,527.20

GARCIA 3; OMBUDSMAN 1

Ex-general off the hook again

WHAT WENT BEFORE

IN DECEMBER 2003, IAN DARL ANG Joan Paolo, sons of Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia, the former Philippine comptroller, were detained at the San Francisco airport in the United States for failing to declare $100,000 in cash.

The Armed Forces and the Ombudsman conducted separate investigations. Garcia was removed from his comptroller post and became chief of staff and presidential adviser for security and programs for the AFP.

In October 2004, the Ombudsman found that Garcia, who had a monthly income of P96,915, had set declared P1.28 million worth of assets in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) for several years. It ordered that Garcia be suspended for six months, and filed a petition for forfeiture before the Sandiganbayan.

Accounts frozen

The AFP announced that Garcia would be confined to quarters and court-martialed.

That same month, the Court of Appeals ordered the freezing of 40 bank accounts owned by the Garcia family. The US government also froze Garcia's real estate holdings in New York and Ohio.

In November 2004, the Ombudsman filed four charges of perjury against Garcia in connection with the SALN for the 1997 to 2000.

In June 2005, Garcia was arrested following the filing of plunder charges against him. He was in Quirino and three sons for acquiring P303 million in illgotten wealth.

The Sandiganbayan ordered the arrest of Garcia's wife and sons in 2006, but they could not be found.

The Ombudsman filed a second batch of cases in July 2006, bringing to many that P345-million into total assets being sought from the Garcias.

In December 2008, a military court found Garcia guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. He was sentenced to two years of hard labor and dismissed dishonorably from the service.

Earlier acquittals

In May 2008, the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division acquitted Garcia of the perjury charge in connection with his 1998 SALN. In April 2008, Garcia was acquitted of the perjury charge in connection with his 1998 SALN.

Last February, the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division sentenced him to up to six years than two years in prison for misdeclaring his assets in his 2000 SALN. Left pending in the 1st Division was the perjury case involving his 1999 SALN.

In the same month, Garcia's sons Joan Paolo and Ian Carl were arrested in the United States following their indictment for bulk cash smuggling. They are being held in San Francisco.

Garcia and one Timothy Blank were arrested in the United States last March on the basis of a request from the Philippine government. They are being held in Brooklyn and New York, respectively. *(reporter Bonnie Li)*

By Philip C. Tubeza

RETIRED MAJ. GEN. CARLOS F. Garcia, the detained former Armed Forces comptroller who is alleged to have amassed an ill-gotten fortune of P303 million, has won a third court victory.

The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court yesterday dismissed another forfeiture case against Garcia "due to reasonable doubt."

According to the 1st Division, the Ombudsman failed to prove that Garcia had willfully and deliberately omitted in his Statement of Assets of Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) that his cars were only worth P870,000.

"The overriding consideration is not whether the court doubts the innocence of the accused but whether it entertains a reasonable doubt on his guilt. If there exists even one iota of doubt, this court is under a longstanding injunction to resolve the doubt in favor of the accused," said the decision penned by Associate Justice Alexander Gonzaga.

With yesterday's ruling, the state has lost three of the four perjury cases it filed against Garcia in the Sandiganbayan. It won one perjury case last February and is still prosecuting two forfeiture cases and a P303-million plunder case against the retired general and his family.

In a statement yesterday, the Ombudsman's office vowed to "exhaust all legal remedies" to overturn the acquittal.

Diosdado Calonge, the head of the Ombudsman prosecution team, said Garcia "cannot yet claim victory" as the Ombudsman would appeal his acquittal.

Government prosecutors had alleged that while Garcia claimed in his SALN that his cars were worth only P870,000, the actual total worth of the vehicles belonging to Garcia and his wife—a Toyota Previa (P821,787), Mitsubishi L-300 van (in Gene

GARCIA on trial

(P424,893); and a 1997 Honda Civic (P56-4,000)—was around P1.5-million.

Garcia argued that his failure to declare the cars was done "in good faith" as he did not know that he had to declare the Honda Civic and L-300 van that were bought by his wife, Clarita, as his personal properties.

The tribunal explained that any false declaration in the SALN "is not in itself unlawful."

It said the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Garcia willfully and deliberately excluded the two vehicles from his SALN.

Marissi Capa, one of Garcia's lawyers, said her client was "very thankful" for the court decision.

Capa said that Garcia still has no contact with his wife and two children. Ian is accused in the plunder charges against him—who are reportedly held in the United States.

"That's what the press is saying...that they are under arrest but I can't confirm that. He does not have any access to them although he wants that. He does not have a laptop," Capa said.

2 losing bidders question bid winner's capability

By Kristine L. Alave

TWO LOSING BIDDERS FOR THE COMmission on Elections' award of the contract to automate the 2010 polls are questioning the bid process as well as the capability of the winner, the Smartmatic International consortium and the Philippine Management Corp.

In letters sent to the Comelec en banc, the Venezuela-based consortium and the Philippine Stock Exchange-listed Business Process Service Corp. joint venture raised doubts about the ownership of Smartmatic and the suitability of its election machines.

Following a month-long bidding, the Comelec en banc announced last week that Smartmatic-TIM, a Dutch-Filipino joint venture that tendered P7.2 billion for the project, would be supplying the election machines and information technology management for the 2010 national and presidential elections.

Avante and Dejonia, which were disqualified on eligibility grounds, blasted Smartmatic-TIM for allegedly failing to disclose its single largest contract and other dealings.

Ownership

Dejonia president Jack Blaker questioned the ownership of the company, its capital, and the fact that some of its shares are held in trust.

He also claimed that Smartmatic had not been audited in its eligibility documents, noting that the company that was identified by the Venezuelan government as its electronic election provider was not Smartmatic International.

Blaker also claimed that Smartmatic had told the bid committee that its contracts were worth over $350 million. However, its audited financial statement showed that its revenues for 2007 and 2008 totaled less than $120 million, he said.

"Due to this obvious discrepancy and the issues concerning Smartmatic's single largest contract, those additional contracts must not be considered," Blaker said.

Unfairly treated

Avante, in its letter, suggested that it was unfairly treated by the special bids and awards committee when it was disqualified. For failing to submit the right copy of its single largest contract.

It said Smartmatic-TIM had the same problem, but was allowed to proceed.

Dejonia and Avante claimed Smartmatic-TIM had failed the machine testing phase of the screening when one of its machines rained smoke during the end-to-end test last month.

They also claimed that the machines were unable to function for 12 consecutive hours on its own power supply, one of the requirements set by the bid committee.

The bid committee and Smartmatic-TIM defended the integrity of the equipment, saying it was the battery valve that malfunctioned, not the machine.

MANGO
fashiontastic
sale
up to
50% off

Ford Escape
Experience the Garden of Eden for less than a million pesos.
That's my Escape
Ford Escape. Starting at a special price of just P999K.
ford.com.ph
Ford
Make Every Day Exciting

Climate change pits 'haves' vs 'have-nots'

By Alcuin Papa

SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE THE Philippines must band together and "shame" developed countries into understanding efforts to adapt to climate change, according to the Oxfam, the UK-based humanitarian organization.

While developing countries have a marginal role in negotiations to reduce carbon emissions and to finance adaptation and mitigation measures in the Third World, there is still something that they can do to pressure First World countries to act, said Oxfam senior policy adviser Antonio Hill.

"Countries vulnerable to climate change can maximize their voices and use these voices to shame industrialized countries on the effects of climate change," Hill said at a meeting with Inquirer editors and reporters here Wednesday.

Oxfam has lately turned its sights on climate change and its effects on poor communities, he said. It has added its voice to the concerted efforts to organize developing countries for treaty negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December to hammer out a new climate change agreement.

The goal in Copenhagen is a climate treaty that would go beyond the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the global warming agreement that set emissions targets for industrialized nations. The protocol called on 37 countries to cut carbon emissions by a total of five percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

Hill said the discussions in Copenhagen would focus on proposals for limiting emissions of heat-trapping gases by rich countries and limiting the growth of gases in the developing world. It could also discuss ways of providing financing for poorer nations to help them adapt to climate change.

He said developing countries can also participate in calls for funds from the industrialized countries to support programs to help them mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"It is the poor countries who are first to suffer the effects of climate change mainly because of their location in the tropics and their lack of resources," he said.

Forget Facebook; this political website has it all

By Alison W. Lopez

PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS WITH Facebook accounts? Project 11. This "one-stop-shop" website for those aiming to run for President has it all.

Backed by the Commission on Elections, the country's first socio-political networking site was launched in Makati yesterday and aims to create a more informed Filipino electorate for the 2010 elections.

Dubbed abanera.com, run by a nonpartisan technology provider 88388.com, is an interactive site which allows users to view the profiles, pictures, videos and stands on issues of about 20 "perceived" presidential candidates, or make their voices heard by joining forums.

It targets more than 28 million Internet users in the country, as well as Filipinos eatery all over the world who "become the heart of web presence."

"Things are changing now. It's not just the actual voting and counting. We have to automate everything. We have to modernize everything. The Internet is a very attractive platform due to its expansive space. All the candidates will be in one virtual landscape," said Comelec spokesman Jimmy Balmaceda.

The site is divided into 11 sections: Home, Candidates, Issues, News, Videos, Photos, Calendar, Announcements, Elections 101, Forum and About Us.

Each "perceived" presidential candidate—that is, those who make it to the screens—will be given a web page with a standard layout to contain "equal footing."

Invest in RP, GMA urges Japan traders

WITH THEIR NEW BILATERAL trade agreement, Japan should trade more with the Philippines to help it prepare for economic rebound, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Speaking before the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Tokyo, Ms Arroyo said that the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) would "open a new era of economic relations" for the two countries.

"We should encourage more investment from Japan to the Philippines, which will create employment opportunities and boost demand in the entire region," she said during the Council on Trade and Industry meeting of the JCCI.

This is the first year of implementation of JPEPA, ratified by Japan in 2007 and the Philippines a year later.

Ms Arroyo, now in Japan for a four-day working visit, exhorted Japan's "manufacturers and dealers" to invest in the country's business process outsourcing, tourism, energy technology, mining, biofuels and infrastructure.

Noted sold on these, especially for Japanese investors, Japanese Japanese schools can even be established in the Philippines to shorten the training period for nurses and caregivers prior to their assignment for Japan," she said.

Ms Arroyo earlier met with the Emperor-Empress Consort of the JCCI.

Also on Thursday, Ms Arroyo, who arrived with her party in Japan Wednesday, had an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace. This was the third time they received Ms Arroyo at the Palace during her eight-year administration.

Aussie gov't grants RP P68M for the poor

By Nikko Dizon

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS earmarked 1.79 million Australian dollars (P68.1 million) in technical assistance for two pro-poor programs implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

These are the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR).

In a report yesterday, DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral said the Australian government's commitment to help the pro-poor programs was relayed to her by Australian Ambassador Rod Smith.

Smith recently paid a courtesy call on Cabral at the DSWD.

The fund will be provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) through the World Bank, according to Cabral.

The 4Ps is a short term poverty alleviation program initiated by the Arroyo administration where poor families are given cash incentives if they keep their young children in school and avail themselves of health programs, especially for pregnant mothers.

The program aims to ultimately break the intergenerational poverty cycle by investing in human capital.

DSWD statistics showed that in 2006, 227,418 households benefited from the 4Ps program and the government aims to include 324,000 more households.

The household targeting system for poverty reduction is a data management system that identifies who and where the poor are in the country to ensure that they will receive the assistance extended by the government.

The DSWD added that the World Bank, with the assistance of AusAid, is currently evaluating the impact of the 4Ps in eight municipalities located in Misamis Province, Occidental Mindoro, Negros Oriental, and Lanao del Norte.

The evaluation, which began on June 15 and would end on June 24, will assess the "changes in the well-being of individuals, households, or communities resulting from the implementation of the program."

"The impact evaluation seeks to measure the impact of the program and its projected outcomes, provide basis for program design enhancements, and to provide basis to program replication in other new areas," Cabral said in the statement.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 19, 2009
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

1st Reading: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9
2nd Reading: Eph 3:8-12, 14-19
Gospel: Jn 19:31-37

At it was Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross during the Sabbath, for this Sabbath was a very solemn day. They asked Pilate to have the legs of the condemned men broken, so they might take away the bodies.

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who had been crucified with Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a lance and immediately there came out blood and water.

The one who has seen have given his witness so that you may believe. His witness is true and he knows that he speaks the truth. All this happened to fulfill the words of the scripture, Not one of his bones will be broken. Another text says: They shall look on him whom they have pierced.

Commentary

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is the special form of devotion to Jesus. His heart is, above all, the emblem of love and whatever in him is love. So we honor with this love. Devotion to the Sacred Heart, being directed to the living heart of Jesus, does become familiar with his whole inner life, with all his virtues and sentiments, and finally, with his infinitely loving and humble nature.

There is a kind of mystical conversion, very naturally made, when speaking of a Sacred Heart, our affections go to a person, just as when we mention the Sacred Heart we mean Jesus. When the word "heart" is used to designate a person, it is because the person is considered in relation to his or her greatest unity and moral life. The love of Jesus, his heart, embraces us all, and the heart is the symbol of his merciful love. We must give back to him what nothing can ask with it, for nothing more fitting to us and for bringing us, who live by it, to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength. He other practice can ever enhance the riches of our devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc., 1 Maja cor. St. 19th Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, 1104 Philippines. Tel. (63-2) 426-6001 to 08 Fax (63-2) 426-6147 e-mail: claretian@cbcp.mailnet.ph; www.claretian.org; publications cor. 23 Sacred Publications; e-mail: claretian@cbcp.mailnet.ph; Claretian Publications, P.O. Box 1, Quezon City 1100

SEX VIDEO FALLOUT

Katrina still on warpath

By Tina G. Santos, Gloma Palcilogan and Lala E. Salamerin

STILL ON THE WARPATH, actress Katrina Halili yesterday charged Doctors Hayden Kho Jr. and Vicki Belo with medical malpractice at the Professional Regulation Commission.

In her complaint, Halili said that Kho, even without proper training, performed a liposuction on her at the Belo Medical Clinic in August 2007, according to lawyer Phaeton Mainde, head of the PRC legal division.

Belo was included in the complaint because Kho, who used to work at the Belo Medical Clinic, performed the liposuction with her consent, Halili said.

Halili also personally filed yesterday a petition before the Department of Health, asking Kho against Dr.

Pacman No. 6 on richest athletes' list

From page A1

million (about P1.9 billion) from June 2008 to June 2009, atop the list was golfer Tiger Woods.

The 30-year-old Pacquiao, the world's best pound-for-pound fighter, emerged tied to earnings with current NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers and golfer Phil Mickelson, just a shade under shy soccer glamour boy David Beckham ($42 million).

Forbes is a prestigious business magazine. Its website itself on its website as "a leading Internet media company [that] is among the most trusted resources for the world's business and investment leaders," providing reports on business, technology, investing and lifestyle and the databases, such as the annual Forbes Lists, among others.

MANNY PACQUIAO
No. 6

LEBRON JAMES
No. 6

DAVID BECKHAM
No. 7

ROGER FEDERER
No. 11

MICHAEL JORDAN
No. 3

KOBE BRYANT
No. 2

TIGER WOODS
No. 1

More money than Federer

In an article written by Kurt Badenhausen, Woods wound up the moneymaking pursuit for the eighth straight year with $110 million. That amount was before Woods' $113 million overall earnings last year but nearly 2 1/2 times more than what joint second players Bobo Bryant, Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant earned.

Bryant, main man of the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers, the basketball legend Jordan and the Finnish Formula One driver Raikkonen grossed $45 million each.

Surprisingly, Pacquiao earned more than tennis star Roger Federer, who won the French Open last month for his 14th Grand Slam title. With $23 million in fees, Federer was tied with the eighth-ranked Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina.

De La Hoya fight

Pacquiao is estimated to have gotten at least $20 million, including pay per view (PPV) shares, for trashing De La Hoya, who on his way after the eighth-round last Dec. 6. De La Hoya, who still made the list with $52 million, eventually announced his retirement early this year.

Pacquiao, who was honored by the Boxing Writers Association of America as its Fighter of the Year on June 12 in New York, won an ninth a two-round demolition of Ramos on May 2, 130lbs in a guaranteed purse of $2.2 million plus a yet to be announced PPV share.

Also included in Pacquiao's coffers were the $3 to $5 million he got for knocking out former World Boxing Council lightweight champion David Diaz in nine rounds last June 28.

Other millionaires

Other athletes on the list southeast to those who earned at least $20 million were motorcyclist Valentino Rossi ($35M), Nascar superstar Dale Earnhardt Jr. ($34M), Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton ($32M), New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez ($32M), golfer Vijay Singh ($31M), Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett ($31M), Nascar driver Jeff Gordon ($30M), New York Yankees' Derek Jeter ($30M) and two-time football Player of the Year Ronaldinho ($30M) of Milan.

Another huge paycheck awaits Pacquiao when he returns to the ring on Nov. 14, most likely against WBC welterweight champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico.

A megabuck bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr. is also on the horizon for Pacquiao, who is already considered the best Asian and best southpaw fighter ever and is a cinch to enter boxing's Hall of Fame.

Beyond sports

Earlier this year, Forbes Magazine also put Pacquiao on its roster of world's most powerful celebrities, ranking him 37th. The roster was headed by actress Angelina Jolie, television host Oprah Winfrey and singer performer Madonna.

Time Magazine has also put Pacquiao, who has won five world crowns in as many divisions, on its own list of the world's most influential people.

So other Filipinos appeared on the three rosters, a testament to Pacquiao's universal recognition that goes beyond the realm of sports.

ISANG TAPAL AYOS NA!
Stops leaks for years

EVO-STIK
FLASHBAND

Instant seal for roofs & gutters!

ROOFING - can be painted

DRAIN PIPES

FLASHING - (For best result, prime concrete surface)

VENT & SKYLIGHT CONDENSER

Available in hardwares and Shopping Mall hardwares
Contact us for the EVO-STIK dealers nearest you:

PHILIPPINE INSULATION CO., INC.
DEALERS WELCOME!

FIGHTING WITH FIRE Firemen go up and down the firetruck ladder backdropped by buildings on Ayala Avenue as they put out the fire engulfing the Campos Rueda building along Urban Avenue near Makati Medical Center on Thursday afternoon.

Presidential or parliamentary, Villar tells Baguio media he's ready

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SEN. MANUEL VILLAR JR. yesterday said he might run again as a Las Piñas congressman in 2010 should the House of Representatives succeed in its bid to adopt the parliamentarism system.

Villar, a former House speaker and Senate president, said it would be his best chance to become prime minister.

"We cannot say it is over," Villar said, referring to Tuesday's Supreme Court decision dismissing as premature a challenge to House Resolution No. 1109 to convene a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the Constitution without the Senate.

"Charter change (Cha-cha) advocates still have enough time by our calculations and create a parliament," he told reporters here.

Should this happen, Villar said in Pilipino, "I will then run for Congress in Las Piñas so I may run for prime minister."

The Villar family was here for a reunion on Wednesday.

Villar, who has announced his intention to run for president in 2010 under the Nacionalista Party, stressed that seeking a congressional seat is just one of his options although he said he has not given it much thought.

One of his sons, Mark, has been tapped to run for Las Piñas representative, but he told the Inquirer he would give way to his father, "if that is what it takes, if Cha-cha proceeds."

Mark's mother, Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, ends her term in 2010, paving the way for Mark to file his certificate of candidacy in November.

"Last year, I was very certain that all the senators would not support Cha-cha. This year, I am less certain," Villar said, pointing out that the Senate leadership has not strongly challenged HR 1109.

"The resolution to Charter change can run out ... I don't think there is even a response," Villar said when asked how Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile has addressed the issue.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Training and Testing Tools and Equipment to Build Public and Private TESDA Toolfast Provinces (TSPs) under the Pangalong Obiro Scholarship Program
Brief Description	: Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of various training and testing tools/ equipment
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: P 39,787,00.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. Their Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Pre-Bid/Post Qualification of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	June 29 – July 3, 2009
2.	Evaluation of Eligibility Documents	July 3 – 6, 2009
3.	Issuance of the Bid Documents	July 7 – 8, 2009
4.	Pre-bid Conference	July 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
5.	Opening of Bids	July 24, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
6.	BAC Evaluation	July 25 – 27, 2009
7.	Post-Qualification	July 28 – 31, 2009

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos Only (P50,000.00) to TESDA Cash Unit.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s and to waive any defect therein in the interest and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is evaluated in most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) T. S. SANICO
BAC Chairperson

'Don't forget to wash, too, Father'

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF JARO has issued a circular as its response to the influenza A(H1N1) pandemic.

"Don't forget to wash too, Father" is among the circular's reminders to the clergy in celebrating Mass and in giving Holy Communion to parishioners.

Dated June 12 but released to the public on Wednesday, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo also calls on all priests and the Catholic faithful to include in their prayers safety from influenza and to heed the directives issued by the Commission on Liturgy of the archdiocese.

"The coronavirus also provided us with petitions to be added to the Prayers of the Faithful as we bring to God our present concern," Lagdameo said.

Under the directive issued to some 150 priests in 69 parishes, priests and lay ministers administering the Holy Communion must wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizers before and after Mass.

The circular, drafted before the first case of infection in Iloilo was confirmed on Wednesday, says stoups will be emptied of Holy Water. Churchgoers are advised to just make the sign of the Cross when entering and leaving the church.

Churchgoers are also advised to minimize physical contact during Mass.

For the duration of the pandemic, the host shall be handed to the receiver during Holy Communion. The customary cupping of hands when passing the "Our Father" has been waived.

The circular also directs those attending the Mass to refrain from exchanging physical contact, reflecting each other the sign of peace and instead, just offer "a simple nod."

Nestor F. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

THIS IS THE WAY TO WASH YOUR HANDS Students at Ramon Aboitiz High School in Manila wash their hands according to the advice of the Department of Health to do so to the tune of the Happy Birthday song sung twice.

5 kidnapped RP medics freed in Yemen

By Cynthia D. Balana

FIVE FILIPINO health workers who were abducted with 21 other hospital personnel in Saada, Yemen, on June 13 have been released, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Philippine Ambassador Antonio P. Villamor reported to Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo that the Filipino nurse nursing with nine Egyptian doctors and other hospital staff of different nationalities when the kidnappers struck at a roundabout gate in Saada, outside the center of Saada.

Villamor, who is based in Riyadh and concurrently accredited to Yemen, identified the five Filipino workers as Brian Agbisa, Jerry Ike Ferrera, Alvin Francisco, Candelario Gacis, and Marydon Torres. They work for the Al-Salam Hospital.

According to Villamor, the embassy learned of the release when the Yemeni husband of one of the abducted Filipino workers sought the assistance of the tribal chieftain in Saada who was able to establish contact with the leader of the group's abductors.

He said that after successful negotiations with the captors by the chieftain and some government officials, the five Filipinos were released and returned to the Al-Salam Hospital.

Last year, the embassy expressed appreciation to the Yemeni government, through the Yemeni embassy in Riyadh, over the safety of Filipino workers at the height of the fighting between the Yemeni military and Al-Houthi rebels and the tension in Saada over successive terrorist attacks against foreign missions and private companies.

At the Al-Salam Hospital alone, there are about 60 Filipino workers employed.

Calling All Loyal Dream Lite 390 Subscribers:

Don't get cut-off!

You only have up to July 19, 2009 to upgrade and now is the time to do it.

We're upgrading your DREAM SATELLITE TV BOX DECODER absolutely FREE!

To avail, simply surrender your current decoder unit (with SmartCard and Remote Control) at the nearest WWWExpress branch or any authorized dealer nationwide. Just look for the Dream Upgrading Center sign.

So hurry! You only have up to July 19, 2009. Old units will be non-operational by July 20, 2009.

* Subscribers with an annualized load of P 2,340 / 195 x 6 months) within the subscription period of September, 2008 up to April, 2009

See flyer for complete details

SATELLITE TV PIRACY is a CRIME

In partnership with

DREAM

DUAL DREAMCARE HOTLINES
(02) 705-3888 / (02) 914-0888
www.dream.com.ph

WWWExpress

CoolWorks, Inc.

To hell and back

From page A1

on Tamiflu capsules and released).

The other two are tested after the doctors looked them over and sent home, also with Tamiflu capsules. It will take another two days for their results to be released. I am detained even if I have my home symptoms, because I'm over 35 and considered "high risk."

Descent begins

The descent into hell starts. Sister 20 steps from the Triage area encounters where doctors had locked an area. I am led upstairs to Isolation Room 105. They call it a "bubble." An outer door leads to a glassed-in small cubicle, through another door to the room proper.

Close to midnight, a medical technician comes to swab my throat and sends me for operation in her area to the laboratory. Not being prepared for the detention, I borrow hospital gowns in lieu of a nightgown. The room is quiet, but a bit clean. The previous occupant left a lot of paper under the space bed for the hosiery (a "nurse-her," usually a household member). What happened to all the occupants of the enclosed wards, the hosiery manufacturers enterprise, I wonder?

There is a small fridge which I don't seem to get to work, but it has a sealed bottle of water in it.

June 12—Splitting headache at about 3 a.m. You're not supposed to leave the room as you could contaminate others. I ditch my head out the door, holler "Nurse!" to response. I put mask on, pull up and down the area to the nurse station. No amount of yelling brings results. No patients in any of the other four isolation rooms, which are in a mild state of disarray.

I pad downstairs all the way to the front door guard to ask for a nurse. A midwife shows up 10 minutes later, saying: "They are very busy, sorry." Busy? Where? I wonder, since there are no other patients on the isolation side and its vast accommodations seem to retain 18 more cubicles later with a paracetamol.

Time to track down a nurse at 10 a.m. to ask for another headache pill. Bullet all you like, working, no dilemma: janitor inside someone down. Finally. A real nurse! Things are looking up! They arrest. She does, finally, a more effective headache pill and medicine for a bad cough, which I hadn't asked for, but was impressed she'd noticed.

Again, the retreat: "We're very busy" it is. The two doctors on duty looking through new requests for testing have their own name in attendance on the ground floor. There are no other patients anywhere else.

In the afternoon, again in search of a nurse, I bump into a young female resident who ushers me hurriedly back to my room and looks me over. No, I may not leave, she says, going through my back with a stethoscope. A radiologist is brought in and it helps the bad cough. I've had nothing to eat, but mist nothing, as my taste buds have gone halfway.

June 13—About 3 a.m. Midwife Winnie plugs in the nebulizer and is gone, never to return. After an hour, I bang out the water door to have a nurse or someone from the medicine ward. No one in sight—why am I not surprised? Nurse finally materializes. A lung speech is delivered (by me) about how all the antibiotics will be contained about the nosocomial hospital. From then on, nonsense is at the nurse station—a nurse, a janitor, a midwife, a body.

Half-wouldn't be hard to take if one had a good book to read. I had brought a book along to read between rests, but had finished reading it. Mine were some chapters to appreciate the prose, but read it read. Dean Koontz.

At 10 a.m., I expect Winnie's leaving me with the nebulizer on and never returning. The nurse says Winnie thinks it, of course.

"Were getting desperate here—I want to go home. "This place sucks." I see a physician thereof; she advises me to ask that I see my attending physician. I do.

What attending physician?

The nurse does not comprehend "attending physician." She thinks I'm speaking in tongues. When she finally gets it, she says I have an attending physician because this is a government hospital. Here's that for a nonsequitur? Whatever? Rolo Cain at staffer president? Cain is raised, Rimbaud-ey blood boiling to the surface.

Bellowsnurse, dry cause in Dr. John Chan, an internal medicine resident. Looks me over, lifts my lung, detailed sheet in an over hand. My results are out—positive for A(H1N1). He gives couch, positively nurse my litany of complaints about RTIM. I insist on going home; he allows it on condition that I am self-quarantined.

Freedom!

Here's the scariest part: I could have died in IDS, and maybe the janitor would have discovered me a day or so later?

RTM being open 24 hours to put numbers in. We have to go back one days later for another swabbing. Evenings there are overflowing, so we are there at 6 a.m.

Everything was totally open physically with no nurses, no doctors, no one manning the isolation desks, thoroughfare. Germs all over the courtyard. "Hello! You're supposed to be open 24 hours!" I can't believe I did that!

Never to return

Slowly, a picture materializes, that is male nurse and finally two physicians. The pediatrician for Gabriel has her priorities straight: She first goes out to her SUV in the parking lot to load up laundry and bags; she's obviously preparing to take a day off. Thirty minutes elapsed by the time we are finally looked over.

Question for swabbing, there is no medical technician. We wait in a room with two unmade beds in the room. We are finally swabbed.

We are never returning to this hellhole.

THE DOCTOR IS HOT IN Patients with A(H1N1) flu is hard put to find doctors and nurses at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa

64 new swine flu cases

From page A1

Bringing 64 new swine flu cases, bringing the total to 321 among the first case was recorded on May 21.

Ninety-three patients have already fully recovered, including the eight who were sent home yesterday after they tested negative for the virus in their repeat test, according to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

"So far the country has no reported case of death or severe illness to all of the 211 documented positive cases," Duque said in a statement.

Of the new confirmed cases, 40 are male and 24 are female. All but one of the 64 new cases are Filipinos.

Domestic helper

One of those is a 38-year-old Cagayan de Oro City domestic helper overseas.

Cagayan Gov. Vicente Yniguez said the domestic helper arrived from Singapore on June 6 and stayed for two days with a relative in Manila.

She went home on June 8 on a plane that landed at the Benito Ebuen airport and took a bus to Iligan, her hometown.

Dr. Jarvien Pamaloy, Cagayan provincial health officer, said that the health workers from Tagum informed the town's Rural Health Unit that the domestic helper developed flu symptoms on June 14.

Immediately, she presumed from the Integrated Provincial Health Office quarantined the woman at her home, gave her the antiviral drug Tamiflu and took swab samples from her, he said.

Manukayong student

In Mandaluyong, LSM students will resume their classes on June 29 as school officials suspended classes for 10 days following protocols of the DOH and Department of Education.

Officials of LSM confirmed that nine of their high school students was infected with the virus. He had traveled to Los Angeles and returned to the country on June 1.

The student had gone to school on June 9, when classes at LSM began, but was asked to undergo self-quarantine for 10 days given his travel history.

The student showed flu symptoms on June 13 and informed school authorities yesterday morning about his condition.

UP students

On the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, school officials are monitoring four other students suspected to be stricken with the flu virus.

The first confirmed case, a female member of the UP Pep Squad, is now recovering, said Wendell Capili, director of the UP System information office.

Of the four suspected cases, three are dormers at Yakal Residence Hall, while one stays at Kamagong Residence Hall, according to Capili.

The three Yakal residents are roommates. "We will don't know if this is just the ordinary flu but they are now in isolation," Capili said.

Betsy Arriguez, UP Diliman vice chancellor for student affairs, said students, who meet on leave to recuperate from the virus, would be allowed to take makeup classes.

Filipino-Japanese student

In Ilocos City, A 15-year-old Filipino-Japanese student is a person isolated in under observation for exhibiting flu symptoms. The student was placed under quarantine and swab samples were taken Wednesday.

The student went to Japan during summer vacation and returned here only last week.

In Bacolod City, the two young boys who tested positive for A(H1N1) virus have been discharged from a private hospital in Bacolod, according to Dr. Lizlie Ebon, Negros Occidental provincial health officer.

The boys developed fever after returning from the United States.

Cebu students quarantined

In Cebu City the DOH yesterday said that five male students were quarantined in a room of their dormitory since Wednesday after they developed flu-like symptoms.

Susana Hinkatrina, DOH director for Central Visayas, said the five students, all Filipinos, developed fever and had sore throats and cough on Wednesday.

She said the five students did not travel or infected countries but some came from Manila.

Barred from leaving

In Manila, airport officials plan to screen Filipino passengers leaving for abroad to prevent the spread of the disease.

Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority, which operates the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), said the agency would purchase additional thermal scanners so that those with swine flu symptoms would be barred from leaving.

This week, at least six Filipinos, all of whom left via Kuala Lumpur, were diagnosed with swine flu in Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

Cusi said passengers taking connecting flights and not actually leaving airport premises would also be screened. With reports from Jhesa Mae Bingcang and Jerome Aning in Manila; Felipe Celiano, Jhunnex Napallacan, Jhaypee B. Bacyad Jr. and Carlo Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

NOW, PHILIPPINE AIRLINES MABUHAY CLASS TAKES YOU TO NEW HEIGHTS IN

PASSENGER COMFORT

Philippine Airlines provides you with improved amenities and a unique brand of service to give you air travel at its finest.

Now, experience an even higher in-flight standard every time you fly Philippine Airlines with our upgraded and refurbished fleet of wide-bodied Boeing 747-400s.*

It takes no less than the country's no.1 airline to make sure every flight is the best for you. Because with us, you're always no. 1.

Modern, tropical-themed cabin interiors - The latest full-cabin Audio Video On Demand entertainment systems
Fully-reclinable lie-flat seats on Mabuhay Class made by RECARO of Germany - One-by-One personalized meal service

*Our B747-400 upgrading program will progressively extend to all flights between Manila and Los Angeles or San Francisco.
To get a closer view of our refurbished aircraft, visit www.philippineairlines.com for a virtual tour.

68 Years of Leadership

Philippine Airlines

WITH US, YOU'RE ALWAYS NO.1

www.philippineairlines.com

MyVote.MyTurn.

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____.

Our next president needs to be someone capable of _____ like _____, and not capable of _____.

No one knows for sure what will happen. But I will make my vote happen.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
E-MAIL OR TEL. NO.:
GENDER: AGE:

Fill out. Clip. **Send** to **2010electionwill@inquirer.com.ph**. **Fax** to **897-4811**. Or send **SMS**: Type *2010**Name*Address*Net Topic*Character Trait*Political Hero*Political Scandal and send to **0918 898 5060**.

INQUIRER

Monthly, our Research Department will collate the results which will be posted in the Inquirer. Entries filled with good-thinking/eureka ideas/innovative approach/ provocative opinion will receive surprise prizes.

'Stop titillating nation'

From page A1

leader in the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said that Mr Arroyo must lead in the mobilization of human resources and other equally valuable assets to lift the country from poverty.

"The President herself should not become an hurdle as a controversial and unpopular leader, to the extent of being seen in the view of our problems," he said.

Ramos said that Mr Arroyo could still regain her positive trust ratings at the beginning of her administration in January 2001 and leave an acceptable legacy if she transformed her negative image into an exemplary and sacrificial kind of leadership.

'Transmogrification'

"But if not much change is happening now—because PGMA has failed to harness the opportunities afforded to her by the past eight years of her presidency—then, our people must persist in their pursuit of a better future," Ramos said.

Ramos said it was not too late for Mr Arroyo to "transform, transcend and causally are."

He said her "transmogrification" would make her "an object of admiration, not vilification."

But in Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, critics should not question Mr Arroyo's "sense of gratitude" (debtedness) should she decide to join Congress after her term.

Act of humility

"If ever the speculations were true, wouldn't the President be humbling herself—because she's dependent—by getting a lesser position?" he asked in Filipino in a press briefing yesterday.

Ermita said Mr Arroyo still had a lot to offer as a public servant, saying "the needs of our people are bountiful."

"That the other former Presidents are not doing it does not mean the President should not do it," he said.

Ermita stressed that Mr Arroyo had never "openly" discussed with him or other members of the Cabinet the possibility that she would run for Congress.

Immunity from suits

In the weekly Kapihan sa Sulnday, Sen. Francis Escudero said he could not understand why Mr Arroyo would run for Congress. "What more do you want to prove and what have you not proven that you want to run for a lower position?"

Asked whether Mr Arroyo, accused of widespread corruption, could escape prosecution if she were a member of Congress, Escudero said lawmakers were immune from arrest for crimes with a penalty below six years' imprisonment.

He said it was possible Mr Arroyo would run for Congress after 2010 because "she thinks she can have enough clout to protect herself."

Sen. Pia Cayetano said Mr Arroyo's motive for seeking a congressional seat was to "abuse the privilege of immunity from criminal and administrative complaints reserved to her filed against her once her term expires."

"If policies after 2010 were a reality game show of 'Survivor,' Ms Arroyo appears to be playing to win immunity out of desperation," Cayetano said in a statement.

Exercise ghosts now

Cayetano raised two possible scenarios that the President's allies could be planning to gain extended immunity for her.

"First, suppose she wins a congressional seat and her allies succeed in controlling the numbers in the House, she may be voted House Speaker and could control over crucial political exercises such as impeachment and the crafting of the yearly national budget. She could very well use these powers as leverage against any government agency or official going after her—including the next President," the senator said.

The second scenario could be her allies succeed in amending the form of government to a parliamentary system through Charter change and the President being elected prime minister which will allow her to enjoy immunity for "yet another indeterminate period," Cayetano said.

Saying the President would have to face the "ghosts" of her administration "sooner or later," she urged Mr Arroyo to clarify her plans to run for Congress and "instead prepare to face the law and accept the people's judgment." *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño*

'Black prank' played on Chiz, Loren

From page A1

2010" stickers. It denied this in a TV interview last night.

Reporters received two stickers in a letter sent by a certain Anthony Sumsuri of Advance IT with address at 5600 Ortigas Jr. Highway, Makati City.

Last week, reporters received what appeared to be heavy-metal bone in "Ozzie Liar" who, among other things, asked if it was true that Escudero, a vocal critic of the move to automate the 2010 elections, had taken P125 million from Smartmatic in exchange for his silence.

On Feb. 11, Malacañang and Senate reporters received small blocks of cheese marked with "Cheers to 2010."

Escudero yesterday described all these as black propaganda and intrigue connected with the 2010 presidential election.

"I don't understand why [considering that] I am not a declared presidential candidate," he said.

Escudero is known to be scraping for the No. 1 post although he has yet to announce his political plans. He turns 48 early in October, the qualifying age for presidential candidates.

Sen. Loren Legarda is also a known aspirant.

'Many' o' mugs

This is not the first time intriguing gifts were given to reporters.

On July 11, 2007, a box of coffee mugs purportedly from then Senate President Manuel Villar was delivered to the Malacañang press office.

Inscribed on the black coffee mugs were the words "I'll have coffee with you in Malacañang. Manny Villar 2010." The letters were in orange, Villar's campaign color.

Each bubble-wrapped mug, which was given to 11 of the 57 members of the Malacañang Press Corps, came with a gift tag bearing the words "MV in 2010."

Villar's office denied sending the mugs, saying it was "a cheap stunt" aimed at "destroying" the senator.

ESCUDERO LEGARDA

The box of mugs, which was delivered by courier, was purportedly sent by one Edwin Manalisay of Quezon City.

At his cheese gift delivered by courier to Drilon and Senate reporters, each 500-gram block came with a card that read: "In just a few months, the cheese that has been your partner will be with you in Malacañang."

Taped to the gift note by a certain Joey Flores of Quezon City was a piece of paper with the message "In 2010."

Unlike Escudero, Villar has announced his planned run for the presidency in 2010.

Tuesday hearing

Escudero intends to go after Smartmatic, our camera for the stickers, but for its documents stating that it was formed and registered in Barbados.

"[This] raises some questions because the main reason we're allowing a foreigner to hold in their hands a very sensitive and crucial matter such as elections is the fact that they're supposed to be credible, that they don't want to damage their image or destroy their company. If they don't do their job well," he told reporters yesterday.

Escudero said he would convene the joint oversight committee on poll automation on Tuesday and would ask Comelec officials if they had checked the background of Smartmatic and its owners.

He said he discovered that it was Smartmatic-Barbados that won the winning bidder only when he studied its bid documents the other day.

"We want to know who are behind Smartmatic-Barbados because it is in Barbados, a company can be organized by just any person and it does not need certain requirements. It is a tax haven, that's why it's considered a tax shelter and a haven," he said, adding:

"The 2008 elections are too sensitive for us to commit to a company that was formed [in Barbados]."

Failure of elections

Escudero said that while he had heard Comelec Chair Jose Melo say that the poll body would file a case and sue any the winning bidder should it fail to do the job, he himself did not raise these fears.

"The words will still be failure of elections. And who will we run after if these people flee? Who should we file cases against? And to what, if we cancel their performances bond if we simply have failure of elections?" he said.

2 game plans

Asked whether he thought there was a plan for the 2010 elections to fail, the senator said the Arroyo administration apparently had two game plans.

He said the first option was to push through with a Senate-less constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the Constitution, and claimed that the purported plan of President Macapagal-Arroyo to run for Congress "presupposes the Con-ass."

"Failing in that, [the second option is] failure of elections," Escudero said.

But he stressed that failure of elections would not happen if the Comelec would be able to explain and convince the public that it could automate the polls.

Escudero also expressed hope that should there be failure of elections, the Philippines would not go the way of Afghanistan, where incumbent leaders ended up still in power.

With a report from Inquirer Research

Among Ed tells Mikey: Go ahead, run

From page A1

He said in an interview that Ms Arroyo would win in the congressional race.

"I can't say the same for Mikey," he said.

"Expungapogan ... are not dumb. Many are thinking, watching the actions of Mikey and GMA," he said.

Padilla referred to the re-peated cash deliveries to Congress, the passage of House Resolution No. 1109 calling for the convening of a commission assembly (Con-ass) midway the Senate to amend the Constitution, the frequent visits of President to his hometown in Pampanga's second district.

"Those are unconcealed," he said.

Should Congress proceed with the Con-ass to mid-July and the three-fourth level public trust mark, Padilla said there would give him a concrete sense that the "family-sense to perpetuate themselves in power to avoid possible litigations."

"Expungapogan are noble people. They value their honor and they fight for it. In other countries, when accused of corruption, commit suicide. Here the Arroyos are sticking to power," he said.

Asked if he would seek re-election to challenge the young Arroyo, Padilla said: "I have a number of options—return to the active priesthood, try re-election or run for national office."

'Nonperforming asset'

Mikey told *GMA News* on Wednesday that he wanted to seek a third and final term in Congress but would yield to his mother if she decided to sit in Congress.

In such an event, he said he would consider running for governor.

"My heart is for a third term. I'm preparing for my third term, for my re-election bid," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Mikey, a movie actor, plunged into local politics when his mother assumed power following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

Despite assertion by then Vice Gov. Clarito Diñite on the eighty of the incumbent, Mr Arroyo's party Lakas-Kabalikat Mikey for the post.

After serving as vice governor from 2001 to 2004, Mikey ran and won as representative of Pampanga's second district. He was re-elected in 2007.

Padilla also took exception to the young Arroyo's description of the governor as a "nonperforming asset."

"May I ask him the ground for him to say such? What is the basis for saying so? We have facts, we have figures to say we have been performing and earning it our eliminating corruption," he said.

Claimed successes

Padilla cited his administration's success in collecting P400 million in quarry taxes, distributions of P220 million to dozens to towns and villages hosting quarry sites, the improvement of public infrastructure and construction of schools and hospitals.

Based on the reaction he noticed by the locanos, not many agree with the idea of Mikey as governor.

Mikey's coach, former Vice Gov. Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, said it was "my nephew's call." His cousin, Dim Salgado, refused the idea outright: "No. Pampanga will be in a pitiful state."

Bojan Mayor Rep. Susie Gonzales, a native of Sta. Rita, a town in the second district, said: "My answer is no. What if he were elected governor? We've had too much of the Arroyos in a highly abusive, corruption-ridden government the past eight years."

But Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, also the president of the Pampanga Mayors' League, said, "It is better for Mikey to run as governor because that way the whole of Pampanga will enjoy progress."

"If he runs as governor, I will volunteer myself as his vice governor for the sake of Pampanga," Pineda said.

SIDEWAYS President Macapagal-Arroyo and Emperor Akihito carry on a conversation parallel alongside that of Empress Michiko and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo during the Arroyos' royal audience at the Tokumaru Room of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Smart cell sites to use fuel cells

AFTER HARNESSING WIND AND SOLAR energy to power cell sites, Smart Communications is preparing to use fuel cell technology as part of its "Alternative Power for Cell Sites" program.

Smart and a global fuel cell solutions provider have successfully tested fuel cell technology in its cell sites outside Manila.

Initially, Smart plans to use the south-friendly technology current of diesel generator sets as backup power supply in six cell sites. It will be the first telco in the Philippines to do so, with the end in view of reducing not only carbon emissions and noise pollution but also huge maintenance costs.

Fuel cells convert chemical energy into electricity to generate power. Hydrogen, natural gas or liquid methanol may be used for fuel cell solutions or stacks.

"Using alternative power source like fuel cells allows Smart to conduct its business with minimal impact on our environment, especially since we have the most number of cell sites spread throughout the country," Mario G. Tarroja, head of Smart's Network and Platforms Services Division, said in a statement.

Interpol unit to hunt foreign criminals

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION has created an Interpol unit that will spearhead the agency's campaign in locating aliens wanted foreign criminals hiding in the country.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said he issued a memorandum order creating the bureau's Interpol unit is a measure aimed at strengthening the agency's capability in going after foreign fugitives and combating international crimes.

"Henceforth, the new team will serve as the frontline unit in our campaign against foreign terrorists and other foreign criminals who have sought or planning to seek refuge in our country to evade prosecution and punishment for their crimes," Libanan said in a press statement.

– Rino Abad Jr.

Paz Alberto Reyes; 84

PAZ ALBERTO REYES, 84, OF STA. ANA, Manila, died on June 14.

The widow of the late Ricardo Reyes Jr. of Cadiz, Negros, Reyes was a pioneer and the longest serving employee of Liwayway Publishing Inc.

She is survived by her children Carmen Reyes-Ibarra, Ricardo Reyes III and Maribel Reyes-Villanueva.

The body lies at the Sta. Ana church. Interment is scheduled on Saturday, June 20, after a 9 a.m. Mass at the Manila North Cemetery.

Department of Social Welfare and Development

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites accredited contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Contract	:	Nurse Norte Agro Forestry Farm Development Project for OSY and Other Youth at Risk (FY2009)
Location	:	Barra Norte, Dorde, Cagayan
Brief Description	:	Establishment of Support Structures, Utilities and Facilities of the Nurse Norte Agro Forestry Farm Development Project for OSY and Other Youth at Risk at Region III
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	P8,867,310.60
Contract Duration	:	11 Calendar Days

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the SARGUL Town completed similar contract with such similar clients a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Requirements/Forms available for the prescription of the contract. The BAC will use post-disqualification to verify the Eligibility Checklist Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relating to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and duration of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent to (1) Purchase Bidding Documents; (2) Eligibility Checklist; and (3) Undertaking	June 17-24, 2009
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	June 17-24, 2009
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 17-24, 2009
4.	Eligibility Check	June 25, 2009
5.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	June 26, 2009
6.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 26-30, 2009
7.	Pre-bid Conference	June 30, 2009
8.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	July 13, 2009

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Requirement and Sample Forms (ERSF) Region 3, Clark, Pampanga City, upon their submission of (1) a letter of intent and (2) payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the CENRO Cashier.

Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at said address and they may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from BAC within same address on the date stated in the schedule of BAC activities or this notice.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Three Thousand pesos (P3,000.00) in the DSWD receipted by DSWD-PCC Cashier. Bidders shall submit their bids on the date and at the venue stated in accordance with the IRR. Prior to the issuance of bidding documents, declared eligible bidders are required to show to the BAC the official receipt/s as proof of payment.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract based on the aforementioned situation in Section 41 of the RIR of R.A. 9184.

Date of posting this notice at the PhilGEPS, DSWD with Messenger of National Compliance and compliance shall be intended for the purpose in the ensuing agency premises: June 15 - 24, 2009.

(Sgd.) DELIA S. DELA TORRE
BAC Chairperson

Robinsons Supermarket

Always Fresh

Washington Apple
₱ 19 ...

Longgan
₱130...

Papaya Sinta
₱ 32 ...

Durian
₱125...

Honeydew White
₱ 95 ...

Singkamas
₱ 22 ...

Sweet Peas Lapad
₱250...

Baby Carrots
₱ 80 ...

Celery
₱100...

Young Corn
₱130...

Broccoli
₱160...

Cauliflower
₱120...

Health Tips by Del Monte Quality

GOT THE BODY YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED?

Drink Fit 'n Right and along with your proper diet and exercise, you're on your way to a fitter and sexier you!

Did you know that Fit 'n Right:

- *Is the ONLY clinically proven juice drink to burn fat*
- *Contains L-Carnatine and B-Vitamins*
- *Is the ONLY juice drink with NO preservatives*
- *Is made of REAL fruit juice that naturally refreshes as it burns*

A Most Refreshing Way to Burn

Whole Health Corner

Kelloggs
₱105 ...

Pedigree
₱1593...

Rice and Oats
₱ 37 ...

Haemiplex
₱132...

Cifa
₱ 13.95

L-Men
₱305.25

Abu
₱ 52 ...

Ensure
₱101...

Dieta
₱ 59 ...

Diabetasol
₱551...

Del Monte
₱ 22.80

Quaker
₱ 9.50

San Mig
₱ 26.75

APPLE TAG SPECIALS

Get Discounts Daily on *Healthy Choices*

UFC
₱ 38.30

Salad Magic
₱89.90

Nutrimix
₱ 14

Visit our ***Whole Health*** section for more healthy finds.

Eat Well Spend Less

A taste of Nestlé Cream

Featured Recipe

Panna Cotta with Fruits in Light Syrup

Enjoy cream at its simplest and richest

Beauty Essentials

Softsoft
₱ 42 ...

Head's
₱ 99.75

Black Beauty
₱ 56.95

Bubble T
₱ 15.75

WOW!

Low, Low Prices!

June 19 - July 2, 2009

Beef Cubes
₱245.-

Pork Sukiyaki Cut
₱190.-

Drumstick
₱135.-

Buffalo Wings
₱143.-

Pork Cubes
₱199.-

Mechado Cut
₱352.-

Bangus Medium
₱114.-

Salmon Head
₱150.-

Quarter Cut
₱128.-

Chicken Teriyaki
₱155.-

Jack's
₱15.25

Jack's
₱15.25

HOT BUY

Huggies
₱228.-

Zonrox
₱17.-

Del
₱17.75

Toblerone
₱80.-

Quaker
₱26.25

Quaker
₱31.-

Nestle
₱28.-

Carnation
₱21.35

Munch Mallows
₱25.-

Centi
₱86.-

Lemon Square
₱37.50

Datu Puti
₱28.35

Fundador
₱330.-

Cems
₱60.55

Lemon Square
₱48.50

Datu Puti
₱26.10

Fundador
₱815.-

Munch Mallows
₱25.-

Carnation
₱22.50

Nestle
₱23.75

Star Margarine
₱21.25

Danes
₱87.-

El Favorito
₱170.25

Gardenia
₱26.-

Gardenia
₱26.-

CDO
₱168.-

CDO
₱109.-

Palmolive
₱84.50

Aseng-O-Jel
₱169.75

Whisper
₱31.-

EQ
₱187.-

Del
₱104.75

Ajudin
₱42.50

Palmolive
₱86.75

Sensodyne
₱134.75

Whisper
₱27.-

EQ
₱187.-

Zonrox
₱25.25

Ajudin
₱42.50

Home Choices

Supersavers

Spread
₱155.75

Skyflakes
₱86.50

Diamond Pure
₱79.-

Joy
₱53.75

Skyflakes
₱46.50

Mazola Oil
₱112.50

Spread
₱263.50

Spread
₱27.75

Spread
₱37.50

ISSN 0116-2042 INQUIRER VOL. XXVI, NO.

OPINION

Let her run

EDITORIAL

THE IDEA THAT PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO may run for Congress in the 2nd district of her home province of Pampanga in May 2010 exercises many of us. It strikes some as Machiavellian in the extreme, a calculated attempt to convert Congress into a unicameral parliament. It strikes others as a cynical stratagem for avoiding criminal prosecution.

In all likelihood, however, President Arroyo's "congressional option" is only part of a mix of increasingly unhappy choices she is considering, in her effort to protect herself and her family after June 30, 2010. The campaign to change the Constitution, by hook (a constitutional convention) or by crook (a Senate-less constituent assembly), seems her best chance of insulating herself from the political toxicity she correctly analyzed in the-ennery 2002, and of which she is, she said Ingnin, correctly), one of the sources. Other attempts to postpone the elections, or extend the term of office of all elected government officials by a year or so, purportedly for synchronization purposes, do not stand a real chance. The energies of the two biggest political parties she heads—Kampi, which she formed to pursue her presidential ambition in 1998, and Lakas, which adopted her when she decided to slide down to vice president—is another part of the mix. In truth, it is the most unstable: local rivalries are tearing apart the political marriage in key areas even before the honeymoon period can begin, and the merged party does not have a heavyweight candidate for president to hold the flag and rally the troops around.

That leaves the congressional option.

Is there a legal barrier? None that anyone can see. Any president can run for lower office. Indeed, the American political system, from which we borrow ours, enabled two former presidents to serve in Congress after their term in the White House: John Quincy Adams in the House, Andrew Johnson (the first US president to face an impeachment vote) in the Senate. Even other political traditions allow former chief executives to serve in lesser capacities, for instance Winston Churchill.

Is there a political barrier? Speaker Prospero Nograles suggested there is, in the process unwittingly providing a cynical view of politics. Ms Arroyo should not run, he said, "because there's nothing more to prove. She has been president, that is the epitome of power." This piece of unsolicited advice explodes the myth, propagated by politicians themselves, that they run for office to render public service. But precisely because Ms Arroyo will no longer be the "epitome of power" by June 30, she might find the need for the protection of the more limited but still very real power of representation.

Is there a moral barrier? Some religious leaders have said so, and it is difficult to argue with the democratic principle that we must give other citizens a chance. We certainly join many others in holding that it is in the country's best interests that President Arroyo hold herself accountable for the scandals and excesses of her controversial rule. But self-preservation is a powerful instinct.

Do we have cause to worry that by getting herself elected to Congress Ms Arroyo will place herself beyond the reach of the law's sometimes-all-too-short arm? The constitutional provision on parliamentary immunity (Even Article VI, Section 11) reads: "A Senator or Member of the House of Representatives shall, in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest while the Congress is in session." That tells us the immunity does not cover major crimes like plunder or murder.

Will we have cause to regret her election to Congress, if she succeeds, by political sleight of hand, in converting Congress into a parliament? Maybe, but the odds against that occurrence are higher than the odds against a no-election scenario. If President Arroyo has had great difficulty in pulling off a Senate-less constituent assembly, how will the manage the trick in a first-lenner to Congress? The will be a congressmenaire without direct access to the very purse strings she used to control, and which helped allow her to keep control.

There are risks to the democratic project, of course, if Ms Arroyo runs for Congress. But there are opportunities, too. As former Senate President Franklin Drilon said, she won't necessarily be unbeatable. And if her son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, runs for governor, he won't inevitably be the victor.

Publisher Isaac Tuason
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jacinto-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Melquiades S. Gamboa
Assistant Editor for Business Rosario A. Garcia-Lumbo
Opinion Editor Jesus V. Arao
News Editor Antonio T. Contreras Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Neal H. Pacheco
Chief, News Desk Jose G. Alejandro
National Editor Francisco R. Bocobo Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime V. Sarmiento Jr.
Alternate Desk Editors Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Jose U. Sonnido Jr.
Art & Design Director Lisa T. B. Palabrica

Board Chairman Helen Y. Dee
President Alexandre Prieto Associates
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato B. Ramirez
VP for Advertising Felipe B. Gozon
AVP for Circulation Isaac Tuason B. Tan

All rights reserved.
Design by Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Logotype by Paul Rodriguez Dee Jr.
Logo and Nameplate Copyright © 1985 Philippine Daily Inquirer
Any unauthorized use, duplication or republication of the contents of this publication, in whole or in part, is prohibited.

Drilon warns of revolution if Con-ass is pushed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE SUGGESTION OF SEN. FRANKLIN DRILON to fight Con-ass through a tax revolt makes sense, though some of his fellow senators are against it. Any earner may a railroad train with 50 to 60 cars. They hope to stop it is to deprive it of fuel. Taxes are the fuel that runs the government. If the people don't pay taxes, there won't be any money to fund Con-ass, and no money for the Commission on Elections to hold a plebiscite. Without a plebiscite, there would be no new or amended Constitution voted upon by the people, even assuming the House succeeds in passing a special budget for it and Malacañang is able to assign together enough funds to bankroll the Con-ass.

The people would welcome a tax revolt. They have little money for taxes anyway; they don't even have enough money for food and other necessities. And business needs a tax holiday to recover from the economic recession.

The usual solution of those given unwelcome tax increases is tax cuts. That is to leave more money in the hands of business and the people. They can then use the money that otherwise would have been used to pay taxes to buy the products that businesses produce. That will have a chain effect on the economy. Businesses would be able to sell more, and to purchase more and employ more people to be able to produce more. More people would have jobs and would use their income to buy more products. The economy improves.

That was what President Ronald Reagan did during the US recession of his term. In fact, he cut taxes in the form of the so-called Reaganomics. The logic for this is that the government would use the taxes to pump-prime the economy, anyway. We might as well give it directly to the people through tax cuts. And Reagan succeeded; the US economy quickly recovered.

Instead of reducing taxes, however, the Arroyo administration is spending taxes to pay for her and her officials' globe-trotting. It would have been all right if the hundreds of millions of pesos in tax money were spent here; it would be a form of pump-priming. But they are spending money abroad to pay for the hotels, food, shopping and fare of our presidents, members of her Cabinet and Congress. Now that Congress is in recess, perhaps 50 percent of all top-ranking officials are traveling abroad. This is not to suggest only a revolution. The President and most top officials are out of the country.

In fact, that was when former Senate President Drilon was told the Napoles multimillion-peso scandal broke. He said that if GMA and her allies in the House pushed the Con-ass in spite of widespread opposition, the people might get so angry that they would launch a revolt. But the administration will stop the train if it is derailed by its abuses.

Drilon was a guest at the Kapihan sa Manila Bay last Monday, along with Senator Manuel Villar. Gen. Gil of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) also talked about the measures being done at the airports to prevent the entry of travelers infected with the A(H1N1) virus. Drilon warned of disease-sized problems if nationals should GMA and her allies insist on House Resolution 1109 that would pave the way for the holding of parliamentary, instead of presidential, elections next year. "I warn the Arroyo administration not to underestimate the people's anger," said Drilon, reminded of dangers in the Liberal Party (LP). "The Filipino people may suffer hunger and economic difficulties in order but I don't think they will stand idly while President Arroyo and her cronies stamp on their political rights just to be able to hold on to power. The majority of the Filipino people must be silent but Malacañang should not mistake this for complacency and submissiveness."

He said Malacañang should be warned of the people's objections to the House-alone Con-ass scheme as shown by the rallies in Makati and in other key cities in the country.

"The biggest mistake the forces administration can make is to ignore the people's indignation over this shameful, self-serving and brazen brutal attempt to make President Arroyo the most unpopular and most distrusted prime minister the Philippines will ever have," Drilon added.

But his part, GM Gil explained what they are doing to step up the airport to prevent the entry of swine flu. He said that passengers and crews at the airport have to pass through a thermal scanner and anybody who has a fever is immediately isolated right at the airport and subjected to tests by doctors from the Department of Health. Not only arriving passengers but also departing passengers are subjected to the test as screening so as not to spread the virus abroad, Gen. said. Anybody with a high temperature is not allowed to leave and doctors are now free to not examine of the A(H1N1) virus.

At the same time, he is being done at the airports in Cebu, Clark, and Laoag, Gen said. And also at the South Harbor. Although the cargo vessels have no passengers, the ships' crews are subjected to thermal scanning. Cruise ships are boarded by our doctors while still at sea and everybody on board is tested. Anyone with a fever is not allowed to get off the ship until he is cleared by the doctors.

Incidentally, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) is now called "The Smiling Airport." Everybody at the airport, from the immigration and customs personnel to the baggage boys, seem to greet you with a happy face for the arrivals. Its motto is: "We go the extra mile."

Now I wish all the other government agencies will adopt the Naia motto and actually do it every day.

The road to a safe and fair global climate deal

COMMENTARY

Antonio Hill

THE HISTORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE MAY GO down as the most well documented collapse of human civilization. Or, it may be the story of how leaders changed their perception of risk and mobilized the political will to lead their countries in the most rapid economic and policy reform unprecedented in human history.

If the climate change talks in Rome that ended last June 12 is any indication, it might be the former. Through sheer inertia, world leaders are abandoning millions of the world's poorest people to a desperate future.

Sixth country delegates have spent the past two weeks talking for hour done nothing on the issues that really matter. They failed to set an overall target for mid-term emission reductions—one of the main aims of the meeting in Rome—or to put forward concrete proposals on funding to help poor countries reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

The original 30-page text for the deal presented by the chair of the negotiation two weeks ago, has ballooned into hundreds of pages of "brackets" (disputed text). This serves as an emblem of the polarized positions in the debate. Europe, the United States and Japan have come to the meeting with nothing new to offer. As one result, the talks in Bonn are dominated further the confidence of poor countries that the developed world is not serious.

Rich countries may be holding themselves they are working toward a deal but they are not holding anyone else.

The risks are now in plain view and failure to make a climate deal means rapid disruption of the Earth's environment and human society.

Global warming needs to stay at 2°C, which is widely considered to represent the threshold of irreversible climate change. But even at less than a 1°C global temperature increase since 1850, climate impacts are already a clear and present danger for millions, with almost all the people at risk living in poverty across the developing world.

In fact in 2007, the world's governments set the requirements in Copenhagen in December 2009 as the deadline to agree on a global deal on climate change. To head off disaster, the agreement in Copenhagen will need to contain the global emissions peak by 2015 at the very latest, and that total global emissions in 2020 fall back to 1990 levels—or even lower.

Scientists urgently need to see what emissions pathways consistent with a high probability of limiting warming to either 2°C would look like, first until this information is available, the only tolerable strategy is to minimize the risks that your people face first on the basis of the most recent scientific findings.

Delaying action, by way of replacing ambitious near-term targets with more ambitious actions in the long-term (post-2020), is to throw away decades of scientific analysis that warns that a delay in emissions reductions of 10 years almost doubles our chance of exceeding 2°C of warming.

Equity is a vital and instrumental part of any agreement to be reached in Copenhagen. No country will agree to a post-2012 climate regime if it perceives to be unfair. An agreement that simply maximizes, or worse increases, existing injustice and inequality is unacceptable.

The existing inequalities of climate change are stark. On the one hand, developed countries are responsible for approximately 70 percent of the GHG emissions already released in the atmosphere. On the other hand, 100 countries with a total population of nearly one billion people contributed less than 5 percent of emissions. Yet it is these countries that the effects of climate change impacts in the near-term.

A fair deal in Copenhagen will have to include resources for adaptation to developing countries, a means to reduce damages from climate impacts, and policy responses that do not themselves harm poor people's lives and livelihoods. Of all the dimensions of equity, agreeing on fair shares of an adequate global mitigation goal to constrain future emissions and poverty reduction goals.

Equally important, developing countries need a commitment to provide the large shortfalls with other cities across the developing world without which effective pressure on the rich world will be impossible. Getting other countries behind ambitious and mandatory targets for rich countries, such as what the Philippine negotiators proposed in the April 2009 session, is needed if rich countries are going to assume their historical responsibility and lead the world toward a low-carbon future and a safe climate.

The United Nations, if necessary, will take down the hundreds of proposals on the table at the close of the Bonn talks into a manageable negotiating text in Bangkok in September. By then, two deals are still possible: a deal that could secure our future and another that will bring disaster.

The world will die G-8 leaders in their summit in Italy next month that only a political commitment for ambitious action at the highest level can save the talks. The inertia in Bonn must end and their must come to Copenhagen ready to strike a deal that will prevent a human catastrophe.

Antonio Hill is the senior policy adviser on climate change of Oxfam International.

Search of asylum for GMA

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO departed on Wednesday on a visit to Japan that will take her to Brazil in South America from June 22 to 25. This trip to the 21st foreign visit she has made during the past five years of her second presidency, from April 5, 2005, when she flew to the Vatican for the funeral of Pope John Paul II, a perfect excuse for a round-the-world trip.

During this period, she has made an average of five trips a year, ranking no less than 23 countries, in all continents except Africa. This coverage undoubtedly makes her the most traveled Filipino president since the birth of the republic, assuming her mileage credits enough to go to possibly two or three times the number of miles that her predecessor has traversed by any other Filipino president.

Aside from this peripatetic record, Ms Arroyo has also earned the dubious distinction as the most unpopular president in public opinion polls since President Joseph Estrada.

Since April 2005, the President has traveled to Russia (December 2005), Malaysia (December 2005), Saudi Arabia and Macau (May 2006), the United Kingdom (September 2006), Taiwan (September 2006), China (October to November 2006), Japan (January 2007), Malaysia (2007), New Zealand (June 2007), the United States and Australia (September 2007), China (October 2007), Spain and the United Kingdom (December 2007), Switzerland and Dubai (January 2008), Hong Kong (March 2008), Beijing for the China Olympics (August 2008), the United States and Mexico (September 2008), Qatar (December 2008). From January to June 2009, she traveled four times, visiting Switzerland, Bahrain, Italy and Washington, D.C. in January, Thailand and Dubai in April, Russia, South Korea, Japan and Brunei in June.

These moves have been a lack of reasons to justify the trips. There was always an international conference—for example, the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, a must for world leaders and economic authorities and bankers, in the midst of the 2000 global recession). There has always been the semi-altruistic aim of promoting the interests of overseas Filipino workers, which is supposed to explain why the Middle East countries, with their heavy concentration of OFWs, have always been on the itinerary, aside from keeping the Philippine economy afloat and underwriting Philippine economic growth, the OFWs' remittances have supplied the President with a continuing excuse for junketing.

Each trip thus has been justified with claims for negotiations over contracts, or loans being solicited or negotiated with international financial institutions (including the World Bank in Washington). The trips to China involved negotiations of economic projects, including the controversial national broadband network, financed by a Chinese loan that would link the archipelago in a telecommunications network.

Whether or not the negotiations on economic projects have benefited the country more than the expenses incurred during the trips or whether or not the trips have taken priorities away from other needed to focus on domestic issues are questions that provoke public debate and require quantification to determine the relative costs and benefits. For example, the three trips she undertook to catch the attention of Barack Obama proved to be unproductive. Similarly, her trip to put the Philippines on the radar screen of the foreign policy concerns of the new American presidency Upended today with Obama shaping his foreign policy priorities, Mrs Arroyo's public diplomacy has failed to win his recognition as a strategic security and political ally of the United States in non-Pacific ranks from Iraq to Afghanistan, consisting of platitudes describing the "historical closer relations" between the Philippines and the United States.

In her departure speech, the President said her Tokyo trip was intended to "justify our release and efficient partnership with (Japan) and to sustain the momentum resulting from the historic implementation of the Japan-Philippine Economic Agreement last December." As if this remote trip not enough to justify her presence in Japan, she said her talks with Japanese leaders and senior officials and business leaders would focus on security issues, including the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. She claimed she would sign two official development assistance packages worth a combined $458 million. But while ODAs are often claimed as important results of presidential travels, these are usually enduring holdovers of Philippine economic diplomacy built on our relationship of dependency and consequently not presidential achievements.

The President has less than a year before she steps down, but at the rate she has been traveling, she can take five more trips before new filing although this number can be reduced by the pressure of preparations for the next election.

The President's penchant for foreign itineraries over five years has conveyed the impression that time is running out on her to enjoy her travel perks at taxpayers' expense and this is her last chance for a junketing spree. Her travels tend to reinforce the impression that she has to enjoy the perks before she is driven out of the Palace by an angry mob similar to the one that stormed the Palace and drove away Ferdinand Marcos.

In her remaining last two opportunities to travel, the terrain should not be ripping any more economic agreements. She should be arranging the asylum in safe havens before she starts packing out in Manila. Marcos never had the chance to look for asylum in a place of his choice aside from Hawaii, courtesy of the US Air Force. Ms Arroyo may not even have any choice at all.

Men who mother

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT WAS THE ENDGAME THEN I read in another daily newspaper. Turned out it I had read wrong. Father, you're mobile—and your eyesight is not really bad but it's worse first thing in the morning when your body's low on water and the dry eyes have even more difficulty focusing). The headline was actually "Men echo mother," which was the theme of People magazine featuring men in poems.

For then, I thought to myself, why wouldn't there be an article about "men who mother" and aren't they also "men who nurture"?

I know a number of men living male nurses, stronger, almost perverse. Many years back when my sister would visit from Canada with her husband and two growing children, my parents' friends would toss their eyebrows at marital gossiper because my brother-in-law, who is Caucasian, was content to children around, kicking, playing, talking with them, but many Filipinos, the men especially, this just wasn't "correct" behavior. The older men would even quip, "Oh those Western men, they're all henpecked."

Now that I've started parenting quite late in life, I've been taking my brother-in-law as a role model. It's not easy and I'm finding that men can be better nurturers in some ways than mom-ers, mainly because the women don't want men to "mother." To some extent, their fears are well-founded: men have a lot more to learn about mothering. And if we're to help men it is because mothers, themselves conditioned by their mothers, have generally blocked boys from learning those activities, simply because it's perceived only women should mother.

When I told an American work colleague I was thinking of a "men who mother" column, she was delighted. But she reminded me that the original meaning of "mother" was "breast feeder" and that, for now at least, men can't do that. Almost as if to remind me, she added, "But I'm sure there's more to mothering than breast feeding."

Believing

And indeed there is, and they are all free of any biological absurdity. There's actually a great deal of cultural confusion around these roles, showing that it's society mainly that defines what's "believing" and what's "mothering." To the most extreme case, "believing" is almost limited to the "male" aspect, as in a sports dream. Paradoxically, this happened mainly in matrilineal societies like the Minangkabau, where men were seen mainly as breeders. The offspring were raised by female kinfolk with no relief men.

In another society made dominance, "believing" is similar, men aiming to father as many children as possible but without having to assume responsibility for either by disappearing or, if they stay, taking minimal responsibility.

In the Philippines, men talk about being breadwinners although in practice, women are taking up more and more of that function. Men are increasingly afflicted with a discomfort although again in practice, Filipino men can be quite nurturing, at least in terms of "entertaining" children.

I drew up a list of "mothering" duties here that men tend to avoid and there's a clear pattern: they tend to do activities that are often called "mental," not the most exciting, yet requiring much time and energy.

The roles are often embedded in a rather complicated cultural matrix, complete with contradictions. Be conscious, we're always warning our women not to carry anything heavy because their uterus will fall (*matabunting ang matres*). That's actually a medical myth, but many people still believe it. Yet we're also warning women not to carry anything a less weighing maybe 5 kilos, but will not think twice about carrying her child, who may be 15 kilos, sometimes even more.

It's presumed men are just too busy to take care of children and that care then gets defined as "mothering." Some of the tasks considered too low for men, and relegated to women, preparing food, enrolling the child in school, waiting for the child to come out of class, bringing the child to the health center for shots, checking on the child's well, to the Philippines, even accidents rarely do find.

These roles are changing, mainly because more women are now in the labor force, many deployed away from home as overseas. But even here, the norms change slowly. A woman who leaves to work abroad will often entrust her children to a woman relative.

Man-made

I'm hopeful though that men will learn to mother, not because they're forced into it, but because they realize how much their time to not mothering. From personal experience, I can say "mothering" makes you more patient. You learn you're less impulsive and more empathetic. The paradox here is that men are seen as the "rational" male is one that actually get strengthened by mothering: you learn to be more firm, more assertive, more capable of individuating.

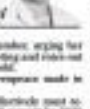
I've learned to take two books with me when I have to do something child-related and that will take more than, let us say, an hour. I've learned to bring a book to read myself and one to read to the child. I have no illusions though, for quite often the kids may not be in the mood to read and want to walk around, or to be carried. I used to resent that, but now find those opportunities for quiet moments and appreciating life with the children.

A recent international conference in Brazil, "Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality," reached to a strong declaration that tackles, among other issues, this issue of parenting. Here's an excerpt: "Responsible, committed and involved fatherhood is an essential component of any attempt to transform families and societies into new norms that better reflect gender equity . . . It is in the home that gender is made man or woman, and where boys learn to be men/males. Positive fatherhood therefore plays an important part in challenging the intergenerational transmission of damaging stereotypes and power relations."

A striking message from that conference is that men have no excuses when they are allowed to explore the full dimensions of parenting. "Men's new roles are costly in time and energy and require a reorganization of their personal lives and revised hours to be men. Here Arroyo finds himself in search of an answer placed immediately . . . Two many men carry the deep scars of trying to live up to the impossible demands of manhood and find terrible solace in fish taking, violence, self-destruction."

That's food for thought for this father's day, for fathers and sons ...as well as for mothers, daughters and sisters.

Strong as the 'balete'



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DID OF THE BTES WE VISITED DURING OUR recent trip to Baler in Aurora was to the 600-year-old balete tree said to be the biggest and oldest tree in the area that survived the bombing of the old Spanish town that surrounded the capital.

The balete is so old that its roots have grown to gigantic proportions, pushing out of the earth and raising the main trunk way above the heads of visitors. Look up and you will see its lofty, leafy canopy, in universal the entirety of the tree. Its large is the tree, in fact, that the complete network of vine-crossing roots has formed they caves and passageways which children climb and explore.

The balete tree is the variety most likely to strike just the general mood, leaving getting lost in the leaves and encountering bird dung and spider webs, not to mention bird poop and (gasp!) snakes. But the ones who ventured into the tree's interior were rewarded with a view of the canopy of vine and vole. Just last year, said some locals, they found for the baleet's health to typhoon winds lashed Aurora, and they rushed to the store to count on the weather-beat situated. The tree had indeed lost many limbs, with several branches broken off, but still is stood, defying nature's touch.

A likely metaphor for the Filipino people, isn't it? Beset by political winds like "Typhoon Cory" — battered by political undertows and upheavals, hypocrisy and sin scandals, and living with the plagues of poverty and pestilence, and still standing strong, weathering the storms of life.

WE all have seen the photos of "silent" protesting in front of the Asian Development Bank where a high-level meeting on climate change is taking place. Recently, Greenpeace climate and energy campaigner Amalia Pulido-Mendoza and Philippine Climate Change Campaigner Mercy Sauler-Sy on the occasion of the recently concluded negotiations in Bonn and the forthcoming climate policy conference to be held in Copenhagen in December; urging her to personally attend the meeting and voice out the concerns of the Third World.

Among the demands Greenpeace made in the letter were:

•Developed countries collectively must reduce emissions by at least 40 percent by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, said that must be achieved domestically.

•**Developing countries like the Philippines must reduce projected emissions growth by** 15-30 percent by 2020.

•Public funding in the region of $140 billion must be committed by the developed countries to enable developing countries like the Philippines to speed up the switch to clean technology.

•Clean Development Mechanism projects should be limited to the existing ones, but for the Philippines with little capacity to reduce emissions.

•Nuclear power, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and other unsustainable technologies should not receive any financial support and verified" support by developed countries under the post-2012 agreement.

***

IT'S literally a race against time when addressing the health advocates and a "Crisis Pact" on July 11 "to highlight the need for investing in women's reproductive health."

A joint statement dubbed "Race against Time: Invest in Women's Reproductive Health" was to be released" will be signed by Quezon City Hall personnel and will cover the stretch of Quezon City Memorial Circle, University of the Philippine Sunken Garden and back to the City Hall grounds.

The "race against time" refers not only to the urgent need to address maternal and infant mortality in the country, but also to the urgency of passing the Reproductive Health Bill, which has been delayed by the filibustering of determined opponents, and sidelined by other "concerns," such as the Con-ass resolution.

Maybe that's why proponents are staging the march—to not just let their health and to solidify their ranks, but also to seek relief from their frustrating frustration!

Organizing this event are the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc. (PLCPD), Forum for Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FFPRH) and many other groups that are supporting the authors of the reproductive health and population development bill.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, PLCPD's executive director, is optimistic, however, that the RH Bill will soon sidelined in favor of Con-ass but that will not stop its fans continuing to push for the passage of this very important piece of legislation when Congress opens its third regular session in July. The reasoning is that if the reproductive health bill, Sen Enrile added, "will pave the way for better health care services for women, children and men as well. It will drastically reduce maternal deaths, improve nutrition among infants, and pave the way for greater participation of Filipino men in family life."

"This entry can is a health oriented, family inclusive way of calling the attention of our lawmakers and other officials to the urgency of passing the Reproductive Health Bill amid Con-ass, the coming elections and other political issues that may divert their attention away from this bill," he/she/it concluded.

The "Race against Time" is one of a series, which includes policy and business forums, to be coordinated by reproductive health advocates in observance of World Population Day in July. The theme for this year's international celebration is "Investing in Women: Encouraging Choices, Improving Lives in a Hostile Climate." Interested participants may check on the details of the "Unity Walk" at the PLCPD website www.plcpd.org.ph

Rizal and Japan

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ON FEB. 28 OF EVERY YEAR PHILIPPINE-JAPAN Friendship Day is observed. It always turns out a rainy day because the date reminds many people of the end of the war, when the trapped Japanese forces in Manila went on a campaign of murder, rape and pillage.

I used to wonder who chose that particular date, when there are 364 less ominous days to celebrate Philippines-Japan Friendship. Now I know. On Feb. 28, 1888, Jose Rizal arrived in Japan. He was persuaded to leave the Philippines following the exodus to "Hollow tongues" (1887).

Rizal's stay in Japan was a stop-over on his return to Europe. He had planned to spend a few days but ended up staying six months. Most Filipinos remember that 1888 only because Rizal was involved with a Japanese lady who, depending on the book you are reading, is identified either as Usui Seiko or O'Sei-san.

Filipinos back at the time of the former Tokyo Hotel where Rizal stayed for a week before moving in to the Spanish Legation in Tokyo (where he was not just offered hospitality but also a job that he politely declined).

I have one kind eyes on it but I have been informed by the hotel's present owners that a piece of river-square preserved in the Tokyo Archives. The address given is 2-3 Kioicho, Yaesaka-cho, Fujimachi-ku, a hotel that he did not find to his liking. Unfortunately the original Tokyo Hotel where Rizal stayed is no more.

The same can be said of the Imperial Hotel originally designed by the legendary American architect Frank Lloyd Wright which now exists only in memory and history. I have seen pictures of this wonderful hotel and heard about it from National Artist Arlene Lim who stayed in the original Imperial Hotel when she visited Japan in the 1950s. Arlene had invited me on a trip to Tokyo to share her fascination with Japanese culture.

Lim remembers many details of his first trip to Japan, especially a risk performance where they sat through a play where actors moved extremely slow. Normally it takes the actors at least half an hour to get on stage and this is done with and speaking. There is no dialogue, only music and the silence is punctuated every half hour by one of the actors who make an audible groan. Lim recalls that "Fernando was enamored. I was perplexed!"

One can only imagine what Rizal made of Japanese theater because, except for a few throwaway lines in a small note paper notebook now preserved in the Lopez Memorial Museum in Ortigas Center, he wrote little about Japan. He was obviously too busy to comment but impressed to paper as he did in other times of his life when his diaries detail everything down to his bath (on the back of El Amor Patrio) and discussions.

Rizal met O Sei-san while strolling in Hibiya Park. He also formed a bond perform them and was surprised to discover that the musicians were from the Philippines. (There are now Filipino artists and musicians who perform in Japan, such as Dayan.)

Rizal seemed to enjoy his trip to Japan. He was not confined to Tokyo but traveling on foot, by train or rickshaw; he visited Yokohama, Lk. amonoto, Nikko, Kobe, Okinoto, Miyazu, Miyajimoto, Oshikawa, Atami, Fukiyuno, Kanazawa, Kamakura and Nagasaki (where he left).

His first impressions of the people are relevant then as now. In a letter to his friend Blumentritt days after his arrival, he reported:

"The Japanese are considered as a gallous people. I do not know if this is justified. It would be interesting to study the point. There are very few thieves among the Japanese; it is said that the houses are permanently unlocked, the walls are made of paper, and in the hotels one can, in traveling, leave his overcoat, his cane, his umbrella. These customs are very rare; no fights are seen on the streets and they are very courteous. Their houses are clean. Beggars are very rarely seen. They are very industrious. What a difference between them and the religious and superstitious Chinese! If I could stay here a couple of years, I would study all these customs and I could write books that are more than a European because I look like a Japanese, and here like in the Philippines they do not have much trust in the Europeans. I regret very much that I do not speak Japanese."

Naturally, the sheer first impressions had to be corrected after a few months stay in Tokyo. He had learned a few Japanese words and phrases, he had learned writing simple words in Japanese characters, and if you see the drawings and brushwork on his Japanese sketchbook, you will marvel that he was also learning to draw and paint in the Japanese manner.

Rizal was fortunate to have visited Japan in the spring of 1888 for it made him more sensitive to nature. He wrote about the trees, flowers, and fruits then in season.

Rizal visited many countries in his short life of 35 years, but it was in Japan that he was most at home, finally with those prophetic words, "In the future we shall have much contact and relations with Japan." Of course, Rizal was not clairvoyant enough to warn us about the horrors of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, but his fascination with Japan and the Japanese will help thanks to further friendly relations between our countries today.

***

Comments are welcome at aocampo@mozcom.com

Are we doomed as a nation?

LETTERS

NOW THAT WE LOSE THEIR AGAIN. Lucinda Secretary Oscar Duggan dumas has categorically scuttled Operation, 6/13/10) what has been an enormous's tongue-all along, the nation should now prepare for massive electoral fraud the likes of which we probably have never seen before. True to her word (finally) that there will be elections in 2010, President Macapagal-Arroyo will step down as president but will run for Parliament as representative of her own bailiwick and benighted hometown en route to qualifying and junketing her "subway" into the prime ministership (another name for the presidency).

An extended term as head of state is a sure guarantee against an unpredictable fate.

With the stonehinged and free-ever ascension of our electoral process, God knows what high-arch gymnastics the Palace may have already rehalled to subvert the will of the people who, if the surveys are of any value, feel they should be liberated already from the incorrigibly corrupt Arroyo regime—for good.

The President cannot afford to be out of power after 2010, given the "strong possibility" that she would be haled to court for plunder and other heinous offenses against the people, as nearly wicked Jose Ma. Sison's friend Gonzalez blurted out. (Inquirer, 6/12/10) And with she will—by hook or by crook!

Can we endure another four, six, or more years of the Arroyo blepharicity? Now more than ever, People Power, so ineffectual in the Cojuangcos, presents itself as the only double alternative to put an end to the vicious cycle we are in again. Are we destined as a nation to have to resort to People Power every now and then?

—STEVE U. VILLEJO, Esq.
atyesubbb@yahoo.com

No SEC go-signal for Permaplans' payment options

MY WISH TO CLARIFY THE FOLLOWING points discussed in Neal Cruz's June 8 column titled "Gov't regulatory agencies sleeping on the job."

First, it is erroneous to say that Permaplans "advised the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) of the proposed payment options." The only time the SEC came to know about Permaplans' "proposed payment options" was when the agency's then Enabling Investors and Investments Department received numerous complaints about the company's unaccountable and unstable down obligations.

Second, we wish to clarify that the alternative mode of withdrawal introduced by the company was neither approved nor permitted by the SEC. The March 31, 2009 letter cited by the company was issued by the SEC precisely to call Permaplans' attention to the plaintiffs' complaints about the pre-need firm's offer of an unacceptable alternative mode of settling its obligations. There is nothing in the letter that allows any other mode of settling the plaintiffs' claims. Although it mentions that any change in the terms of the contract should be "with the knowledge and consent of the plan holders," the company, as a player in the industry, should have known that the proper disclosure of any change in their pre-need contracts/terms would have to go through the formal/procedure of amending its registration statement and that any amendment should have the consent of all plaintiffs-lot-holders involved.

Rule 12.1 of the Pre-Need Rules states: "No Pre-Need Plan contract, trust agreement, or other document pertinent to the registration of plans shall be amended or modified without prior approval of the Commission, and such amendment or modification shall neither affect adversely the Planholders thereof nor impair any term or condition in the Pre-Need Plan contract related documents." The company clearly violated the bargaining provision when it offered its alternative mode of settlement without going through the proper procedure, and this was the reason the SEC suspended Permaplans' dealer's license.

Finally, we wish to clarify that there was no freezing of the company's trust fund assets, a move that the company claims put it in a "crisis of paralysis." What the SEC did was merely to direct the trustee banks to secure approval first from the commission before disbursements are made to ensure that any and all withdrawals will only be made for the purpose of servicing the planholders, in order to facilitate the procedure for the approval of withdrawals, the SEC directed Permaplans to submit in updated manner list of all its planholders, which the company never complied with. It is therefore from this that the company's claim that it was paralyzed was caused by its own failure to comply with the simple SEC directive that it submit an updated master list of Permaplans' planholders.

—C.A. GERARD B. LUKBAN, commissioner secretary,
Securities and Exchange Commission,
SEC Bldg., Edsa, Greenhills,
Mandaluyong City

Where's the investment justifying rate increase?

THIS REFERS TO THE ONE PAGE LEAFLET IN utility billings enclosed by Meralco in its monthly billing.

Apparently, the leaflets are meant to explain Meralco's recent rate increase of P0.25/kilowatt-hour (kWh) granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) under the Performance Based Regulation (PBR) installed of rate setting.

With Meralco's average sales of 27 billion kWh a year, this rate increase will readily translate into an additional yearly revenue of P6.75 billion for the utility firm.

The leaflet compares the business of Meralco to the businesses of a barbershop, a carwash, a cinema, and a magnolia (can beat can) vendor). It explains that the three businesses raised their respective rates to recover the costs of an air-conditioning unit (in the barbershop) and utensils (in the carwash), and the increase in the price of the sweetener called "amalin" (for the magnolia).

The comparison is deceptive, meant to make consumers accept the ERC-approved rate increase.

1. The National Association of Electric Companies for Reform (Nasecore) finds no merit in the comparison and opposes the rate increase for the following reasons:

1. Meralco's business is a monopoly; the three other businesses are open to competition.

2. Meralco customers are "captive"; the customers of those businesses are not. Thus, when a Meralco customer is dissatisfied with its service, he is still "stuck" with Meralco. In the other businesses, customers can easily get the same services or goods from similar business establishments.

3. Meralco's business enjoys a guaranteed return on investments through the ERC-approved rates; the other businesses are left on their own. Thus Meralco's stability is guaranteed.

The more compelling reason for Nasecore's objection to the rate increase is: Meralco is very profitable. It therefore does not need any rate increase at all.

Consider these facts: From 2003 to 2007, Meralco realized a Return on Rate Base (RORB) of 12 percent in 2004; 10 percent in 2005; 12 percent in 2006; and 6.9 percent in 2007 despite the P15.2 billion refund (directed by the Supreme Court to refund) at an average of P3 billion a year. The refund constitutes one-half (Meralco's average net profits from 2004-2007.

Worse, the rate per kilowatt hour on which the increase was based was provisional and conditional, as declared by the Supreme Court in the case Energy Regulator Board v. Meralco, G.R. No. 142356).

The least the ERC could have done to show consumers that it is conscientiously fulfilling its mandate of protecting them was to conduct its own financial audit of Meralco, after all, the Supreme Court had directed the ERC to require the Commission on Audit (COA) to audit Meralco in order to determine the reasonableness of its rates. This was the reason why the Meralco rates from June 2003 were declared provisional.

Lastly, the "businesses cited in the leaflet have already made the investments; Meralco, it appears, has yet to make such investments. So, what additional investment does Meralco have to recover?

—PETE L. ELAGO,
President,
National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform Inc. (Nasecore),
nasecore2005@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and policies by the Inquirer, you may write to the Office of the Ombudsman, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Shaw Boulevard, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-8057, 897-4704, or e-mail ombudsman@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Rizal house is painted green; people see red

SHOCK AND LOATHING IN CALAMBA Since the repainting of the Rizal Shrine in May, not a single, kind word has been heard from the locals about the new color of the town's pride. This is the front view of Rizal's childhood home, which was reconstructed in the 50s with funds raised by children from several schools contributing 25 centavos each. INQUIRER PHOTO / JOAN LANDICHO

Front page A1

reconstructed in the 1950s using the 25-centavos contributions of students in a number of schools. It has stood for decades in dirty gray.

The National Historical Institute (NHI) had the house painted in a light shade of green. The interiors were painted yellow and the ceiling blue.

"From the well in front of the house was painted green," lamented Lazaro, who claims to be a member of the clan through the wife of Rizal's brother Paciano.

'Flimsy' reason

In his column in the Inquirer on June 3, NHI Chair Ambeth Ocampo explained that the reason for painting Rizal's house green was to "highlight, and inform visitors of, the meaning of his surname."

The surname Rizal is rooted in the Spanish word "rizal," which means a green field ready for harvest, Ocampo said.

But a resident of Calamba, who preferred not to be named, said, "It does not follow that every house should be painted green because of the meaning of your surname."

Neither was Lazaro impressed. "It's a flimsy reason," she said. "It doesn't hold water."

She said a cunning joke had the city residents talking about their surnames and how their houses should be painted.

"If our last name is Unless, should our house be painted in gold?" she recalled one sarcastic remark she had heard.

To address the rhetoric reactions, the shrine curator has put up a carpentic breaking an explanation why the house was painted green.

'Embarrassing'

The staff of the Rizal shrine welcome visitors, mostly people on educational trips, especially during weekends. Occasionally, the visitors number about 30 batches a day.

"That's all we have here in Calamba, and we've lost our symbol," Lazaro said in expressing worry over losing the city's main historical and tourist attraction.

She said a British guest recently came to see the house and was "horrified" by its color.

"It's embarrassing," she said. "We are having a hard time explaining to [guests] why it's green."

Lazaro said it was different in the pre-green days: "Children would run; quiet upon entering the house. There was a certain ambience and sereneee, it being an old house."

She said this was contrary to a reaction from another recent guest who referred to the shrine as "a toy house."

Another resident said Rizal's house now looked "like a cake."

Lazaro said members are a tour of Calamba were "angry that they lost credibility before their students" to showing the national hero's supposed representation of house.

Dr. Virgilio Lanuza, institute officer of Calamba, said his office had likewise been receiving negative feedback on the paint job.

'Disco house'

"We are being likened [the tarnishing Rizal's house green]," Lazaro said.

She said she had been avoiding the readers because people there kept asking her why the shrine was painted that way.

According to Lazaro, an old female resident of Calamba even wept over the change, and teenagers have started referring to the shrine as "a disco house with neon colors."

In a text message, a concerned individual told in Filipino: "I did not expect the painting of the bahay-na-bato (It are adult) heads for its repainting, I am sure many will be open-handed."

But Lazaro said it would be too late to repaint the house in time for Rizal's birth anniversary today.

She said the residents were also of two minds over whether there should be a celebration.

Rizalian solutions today

Front page A1

120 years ago, yet its barbs hit the spot in this day.

The ability to read the Philippine condition was one of the talents that distinguished Rizal from other national heroes. In painted Filipinos of the rich heritage which the Spanish colonizers, the thieves of more centuries, had stolen from them, he annotated Morga's "Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas." To make them aware of a certain history without Spain, he wrote his prophetic essay, "Las Filipinas Dentro de Cien Años."

He was naive. "Sois Mis Sangre" and "El Filibusterismo," respectively portrayed the cancer spreading throughout Philippine society and the consequences of this social malady.

4 courses of action

In the 1890s, when the nonspecific ailment was nearing the breaking point, Rizal mapped out several courses of action to ease the situation.

One, establish a Filipino colony in Sandakan, North Borneo, to be initially settled by families from Calamba and other parts of the country that were driven away from their farms by the friars. Free of Spanish tyranny, Sandakan could give rise to the ideal Philippine society.

Two, establish a secret nationwide organization called La Liga Filipina. In the Liga's envisioned society, members would be committed to prevent feuds other against any adversity, expel violence and injustice, invigorate education, commerce and agriculture, and study and apply social and economic reforms.

Three, write to Governor General Eulogio Despujol and offer his services to patch up the supposed educational rift between the Philippines and Spain through peacefully negotiated reforms.

Four, discuss the mechanics of revolution—e.g. how to smuggle arms, how to get foreign support—with his close friends Ledlanco apacible, Jose Maria Basa, Antonio Luna, Mariano Ponce and Jovellar Pardon.

Overtaken by events

Rizal pursued all of the above alternative solutions, but with no success. He visited Sandakan, but negotiations with the local British governor for the acquisition of 5,000 acres of land didn't pan out.

La Liga was short-lived. A few days after it was founded, Rizal was banished to Dapitan.

Despite/however unexpected Rizal's offer to discuss and institute reforms. Although Rizal held talks with Spanish officials in Dapitan, and Despujol did the rest, especially Rizal himself, were overtaken by events.

What was Rizal trying to do? He seemed to be striking out in four different, contrary directions. He prescribed armed revolution as the ultimate means to free our Spain, although he knew that a revolution wouldn't work under circumstances where there was no foreign support, no arms, no trained army, no assistance from the elite.

RIZAL

Given the Liga's broad plans, how long would the sub-rosa organization hold out before it was discovered? After writing a novel making passions against Spain, why would he take the cordial path of rapprochement?

'Lang destined'

The clue to understanding Rizal's enigmatic moves, his biographer Austin Coates suggest, lies in his pen name. Laong Laan, meaning "long destined."

Rizal seemed to have an intuitive notion of his destiny and he seemed to be prepared for that destiny whenever it was.

Which was probably why he became a man of many parts—a doctor, writer, teacher, sportsman, linguist, scientist, sculptor and so on. And which was probably why he was never a spontaneous person.

Whether by nature or training, he was likely to make a choice unless faced from no one but several possible end results. He wrote different endings in the same story.

That there was method to his moves given necessary to his being perceived as a man ahead of his time.

Rizal actively shaped the course of Philippine history through what we now call scenario planning. Close to a century later, his method-ology would be adopted by the modern world.

Scenario planning

A scenario is a hypothesized view of the future and of the various ways of arriving that future based on current driving forces.

Scenario planning embolden us to think out of the box so that we can fully explore all possibilities and the changes these are likely to remain.

Two examples of successful scenario planning may be mentioned. One earned the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies (Shell) the reputation of being one of the best-managed companies in the world while another exacerbated to the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa.

As early as 1972, Shell began scenario-planning that enabled it to envisage the creation of Opec, the oil price shock of 1972-1974, the oil crunch of 1986, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the chaos in Eastern Europe.

Armed with advanced perceptions of the future, Shell reworked operations way before the projects and others saved. While its competitors shrank in size, it emerged generally unscathed from events that rocked the world.

4 future scenarios

Shell's scenarios imparted on developments in South Africa, where a confrontist and multinational group was concerned to produce four future scenarios, all of them raised after feathered crossovers.

"Ostrich" posited the continuance of the Pe Klerk government, meaning, burying one's head in the sand. "Lame Duck" was a recipe for a prolonged transition under a rigid government.

"Icarus" opted for a radical black government that would embark on a huge spending program to redistribute economic resources.

"Flamingo" proffered a coalition government that would introduce gradual, participatory development, following the flight pattern of the eponymous bird (flamingos take off slowly but always in unison).

These scenarios were published and debated by various leadership sectors and the public at large. They became the topic of policy dialogues across South Africa.

It was perceived that "Ostrich" could deepen polarization and, therefore, has more violence; "Lame Duck" could drive away investors and thus thwart growth; and "Icarus" was unsustainable and could lead to bankruptcy.

"Flamingo" was adjudged the best scenario.

The rest, as they say is history. South Africa today is regarded as the most progressive nation in Africa.

RP futures

There is much to be learned from Rizal and contemporary scenario planners. The nation can see a respite from the daily beating it gets from the cacophony and chaotic clatter.

But more than a respite, it needs more permanent solutions to its problems.

Perhaps a group of men and women of probity and genius could be convened on plot alternative futures for the Philippines—once that would wrest the nationalist agenda from traditional politicians and enable people to not merely react to forces beyond their control but to actually have a say in shaping their destiny. That would be Bandusan.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ACTIVITIES / SCHEDULE

1. Issuance of Bid Documents
2. Pre-Bid Conference
3. Opening of Bids
4. Bid Evaluation
5. Post-qualification
6. Notice of Award

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

DIGITAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

PROVISION AIRCONDITIONERS FOR DCSD LAND PRICING SYSTEM (PHILBOID FOR ICSS MAIN, BMCC & UTILITY BUILDINGS)

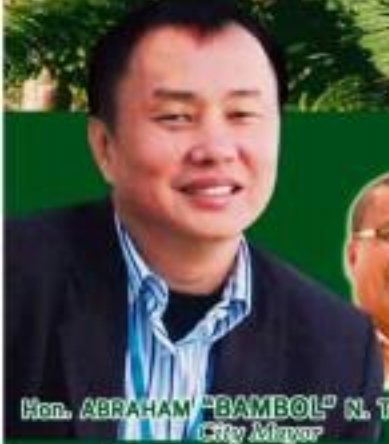
Mabuhay!

Tagaytay City

on its

71st Anniversary

Charter Day - June 21, 1938



Tagaytay City Officials

Hon. ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
City Mayor

PAGCOR
PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION
TAGAYTAY

Tagaytay Highlands

TAAL VISTA HOTEL

SUMMIT RIDGE

Tagaytay Tourism Council
Picnic Grove
People's Park in the Sky

Across the NATION

Foreign terrorists operating in Sulu

US colonel confirms for 1st time alien JI members working with Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A US military officer yesterday broke the US government's long official silence about the presence of foreign terrorists in Sulu, confirming for the first time that foreign members of the Jemaah Islamiyah are operating in the province.

"We know for a fact that they are down there," said Col. Wilhelm Coolidge, US commander of the Joint Special Forces Task Force Philippines that is taking part in joint military exercises with Philippine soldiers.

Coolidge would not say how US forces were able to validate the presence in Sulu of foreign members of the JI, a Southeast Asian terror network with links to al-Qaeda.

JI presence in Sulu has been reported earlier by Philippine military officials.

He would also not elaborate on the number of foreign terrorists in Sulu and the extent of their operations there.

"Obviously I can't give away the numbers. I can just tell you that we do know that there are members of the JI that are down there and you see them in the advertisements with the posters out there, like Patek, Marwan and others," Coolidge said.

A US SOLDIER raises part of a dental and medical mission in Jolo, Sarangani, as part of his government's continuing campaign to win hearts and minds among the poor, believed to be a breeding ground of terrorism and anti-American sentiments. —STANDARD-TIMES

The US government funded the printing and distribution of wanted posters of terrorists.

Lt. Lt. Jonathan Cacho, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said there are actually rare terrorists among the alien Marwan.

"Our's Tausug-speaking and we have knowledge of another one in Central Mindanao," Cacho said.

He said the military could not determine who among the two Marwans is Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir.

Zulkifli is an alleged bomb expert, who trained an engineer in the United States, He is on Washington's list of most wanted terrorists.

Coolidge said US forces in Sulu continued to stay out of the war zone despite recent skirmishes between Abu Sayyaf bandits and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"I know right now, they are working on a joint project to help those needing school houses, jobs and very close to where the firefights are going on barely over at Tipadita in Talipao. They are working on building new school houses out there so that's an example of just stepping the process," he said.

US Air Force Maj. John Hatch-cone, JSOTF public affairs director, said in-God...some projects near violence-torn villages were to be inaugurated soon.

"We are going to inaugurate one project soon the area of Sawajaya Kupar (Indanan) on June 22," he said.

Kupar was one area where clashes between the Abu Sayyaf and the military occurred this month.

Coolidge said the presence of the Abu Sayyaf and JI elements in Sulu was not worrying US soldiers.

"The good news is I don't see the US forces [making off on Balikatan] medical, dental and civic action programs] as the engineering projects," he said.

Coolidge said US troops are moving forward with the projects.

"That's the way it should be, try to help the people while trying to remove the threats to the people at the same time," he said.

Coolidge said the humanitarian efforts have indeed helped improve Sulu's peace and order.

"I see a big difference. Look at what it was like five years ago... I can see that you can measure and you can look at where the violence was in the past and where it is now, it has continued to shrink," he said.

Jaclee L. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

WESTERN

WHAT DADDY WANTS

FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 21

LESS FREE
ADD
P2,908.33
12 mos. 0%

LESS LESS
ADD FREE
P7,249.17
12 mos. 0%

SAVE P2,000
P1,825.00
12 mos. 0%
on Cash or Straight Charge

SAVE P1,500
P1,207.92
12 mos. 0%
FREE

FREE
P582.50
12 mos. 0%

SAVE P1,000
5,995.00
CASH ONLY

P458.25
12 mos. 0%

P1,165
6 mos. 0%

FREE Karaoke Mic.
2500W
P915.83
12 mos. 0%

LESS FREE
P1,550.00
18 mos. 0%

FREE
SAVE P1,000
P1,579.17
12 mos. 0%

FREE
ADD
P2,582.50
12 mos. 0%

P2,399

WITH REMOTE CONTROL
P1,799

10% OFF on CASH

P2,150

5% OFF on CASH

P1,900

DADDY Must Do's

Sip Coffee

Juice It Up

PHILIPS
Juice & Smoothies at Grand Central
June 19-21

Fitness Check

BRAUN
Blood Pressure Check at Trinoma
June 19-21

For Institutional Sales, please contact: Mr. Noel Ignacio @ 373-4501 up to 09, Fax: 412-8711 & 371-0490, Email: sales@western.com.ph, Website: www.western.com.ph

MAIN OFFICE (Q.C.) | C.M. RECTO | GREENHILLS | GRAND CENTRAL | P. TUAZON | MANDURIO PLAZA | Trinoma

CUBAO/ARANETA | MAKATI | MEGAMALL | BALIKBAYAN | HARRISON PLAZA | FESTIVAL SUPERMALL | STA. LUCIA GRAND MALL

Prices updated up to June 30, 2009. For CSP (SRP) Reference Nos. 1000, Series of 2009.

still the BEST brands, the BEST deals plus FREEBIES.

at the NEW WESTERN KALOOKAN

Shop Your Way To Easy Rewards.

Give your Dad a tasteful wardrobe fix!

10% OFF

VAN HEUSEN

IZOD

Platinum Exclusives cardholders get 10% DISCOUNT on all regular items at Van Heusen and Izod branches.*
*Metro Manila branches only

FREE

Purchase Exclusive Cardholders get a 25% discount on all Standard Pizza purchases at selected outlets or FREE Medium Size Pizza for every purchase of a Big Family Pizza.

RURAL SETTING
President Macapagal-Arroyo meets with Northern Samar officials and guests at a fair following her inauguration of the Catubig Bridge that linked two impoverished towns in the province after 40 years.

Ombudsman offers help in probe of medicines buried in Pangasinan

DAGUPAN CITY—THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has volunteered to help in the provincial government's investigation of the assorted medicine and medical supplies found buried in two areas of the provincial capitol compound in Lingayen over the past month.

In a letter to Gov. Amado Espino Jr., Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni said his office would extend its assistance "to determine, if any, the possible liability of public officials and employees."

"The Office of the Ombudsman and your office's combined efforts would facilitate the successful prosecution of the administrative and criminal cases, which may be subsequently filed against those who are involved," Jalandoni said.

Pilarito Ordiales, executive assistant to the governor and head of the investigating team, said the Ombudsman's participation in the investigation was a welcome development.

"It's good because they belong to an independent body," Ordiales told reporters during a forum on Wednesday.

He said his team has several corroborating documents on the disposal of the unused medicines and medical supplies.

These include, he said, a letter in 2005 from the provincial health officer (PHO) then to a provincial official requesting that the provincial engineer's office (PEO) prepare soil to be used for the disposal of expired medicines and the removals at that time.

Ordiales said the request was made supposedly in compliance with that official's instructions to "dispose of the expired medicine as soon as possible."

"There was also another letter dated March 3, 2005 directing the PEO chief to dig a [pit] where PHO could dispose of its expired medicines," Ordiales said.

He declined to identify the people mentioned in the documents, saying he could not do so while the investigation was ongoing.

Dr. Jackson Soriano, provincial health officer, said in the memorandum that the medicines and medical supplies would be worth from P1.7 million to P2.9 million.

"This does not include those we can no longer identify and those that were burned," Soriano said.

Ordiales said the Commission on Audit had confirmed that it conducted an inspection and inventory of expired medicines on Feb. 14, 2005. Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Antismuggling exec offers ₱1M for info on threats

BAGUIO CITY—THE DIRECtor of a government antismuggling agency is offering a P1-million reward for information that will help him identify the masterminds of death threats issued against him and his family since May.

Jay Solerpuria, director for North Luzon operations of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG), said he and his family have been tailed by motorcycle-riding men, who have not joined him and his family through cross-messages, as well as letters dropped off in his mailbox.

"They provided me detailed information about what my granddaughter did in a mall," he said, prompting him to relocate his family.

He said details like those were sent to him through messages in his personal mobile phone.

On text messages, Solerpuria said he received telephone calls from a man and a woman, "but they never asked for anything."

"They just warned me that my time is up," he said. "This has affected me. I was two years old when I was abducted in 1982 by the Huklabalap."

Although Solerpuria's mom has been credited with breaking up the syndicated influx of reconditioned luxury vehicles at the Subic Bay Freeport and the Cagayan Economic Zone, the official said he suspected his life is in danger because of his ties to a proposed Baguio Casino at Camp John Hay.

Solerpuria is the elder brother of Robert John Solerpuria, chair of real estate giant PJ Estate and president of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevcor).

The PASG official said six investment groups have been fighting for the right to operate the Baguio casino although the CJHDevcor has not pursued it because of public sentiment against a gaming operation here.

The CJHDevcor has obtained a rural lease payment scheme from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to develop the former American recreation complex, ending a legal dispute over its P1.2-billion unpaid rent.

The remastered deal includes a proposed land swap deal between BCDA and CJHDevcor to cover previous debts, as well as a lease agreement between PJ Estate and new investor, Ayala Land Inc.

Solerpuria said the CJHDevcor did not pursue a Baguio license, classifying talks with private casino investors.

"There are no casino talks. [The firm] wants to wait until after 2010 [elections] before it decides [as to whether a casino project is still feasible]," he said.

Solerpuria identified politicians and businessmen who have supported the six groups bidding for the right to run the Baguio casino.

The Baguio police have not received any threat against Solerpuria. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Use of 'swine' to call virus hurting local pig trade—exec

DAVAO CITY—AN AGRICULture official has suggested dropping the word "swine" from the h1n1 virus as it was hurting the country's swine industry.

"They should drop the name swine in describing the virus because there, the local swine industry will be smoking," said Rodolfo Tabug, city agriculturist, during a conference with city officials here this week.

"When you say 'swine flu virus,' it sounds like you can get the virus directly from pigs, which is not the case," he said.

He said the type of flu, which the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared a pandemic, should be called by its proper h1n1 name instead.

"Why not just call it AH1N1 instead of swine flu? In fairness to the swine, people don't get the virus merely from direct contact with pigs," Tabug said.

Tabug said in the past, reports about the swine flu hurt the local swine industry and that big losers had complained.

"Suddenly, people forgot for a while because people thought they could get infected merely by eating pork," he said.

Many people had recovered since but some consumers still shy away from pork products.

Although the virus originated from pigs, it is now being transferred from human to human, WHO officials said.

Nine of the 41 suspected cases in Southern Mindanao had been found positive, though.

Dr. Rogelio Pelare, of the regional DOH's epidemiology surveillance unit, said Southern Mindanao is still "relatively safe" compared with other regions. Health officials advised those with "suspicious signs" to stay at home. Antonio A. Colina IV, Inquirer Mindanao

SC's mobile court makes free men out of 84 inmates

LEGAZPI CITY—AT LEAST 84 inmates have walked out of the gates of the Legazpi City and Albay provincial jails as free men after their cases were heard and settled in their home during the Supreme Court's historical decision on Wheels (SJOW) held here on Saturday.

Of the number, 82 were from the provincial jail and 2, from the city jail.

The number is expected to double or even triple in the coming days as the SJOW will be here until June 26.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno led court officials on Saturday in bringing the mobile court to the city that started hearing cases of detainees still languishing in provincial and city jails awaiting court decisions.

Puno said the release of the 84 inmates brought relief to members of the judiciary who have typhoons in the mountains, the threats of insurgency and even weekend duties.

Their release brought to 3,437 the total of detainees freed nationwide through the SJOW since it was launched in June last year.

It has also terminated 20 cases after these were brought to the courts across the country.

The SJOW has also given medical, dental and free legal services to a total of 7,191 inmates across the country. 500 of which were in Albay.

Puno said the SJOW program is designed to increase the access to justice of poor people who have been detained without their cases being even heard.

He said the hearings were held inside the two judges' session hall of the RTC here.

Puno's group attended to long-pending cases to the presence of the accusers and the accused detainees as part of the SJOW and forwarding decisions to Justice by the Poor program of the Supreme Court.

A MOBILE court in Legazpi City. The deployment of the court is part of the Supreme Court's Enhanced Justice on Wheels (EJOW) program designed to reduce court backlogs and free crime suspects who are detained without trial.

From said the program was launched under his second stint.

The program was the cornerstone of his RC Forum, dubbed as "Access to Justice by the Poor" last year, during which there was a resounding call for greater access to courts by poor Filipinos.

The program involves the processing of cases of detained persons, giving free medical, dental and legal services to inmates, settling or hearing cases involving minor offenses by mobile courts, and conducting court hearings.

The program, according to Puno, has a sound dimension focused on the principle of social justice which was embodied in the 1935 and the 1987 constitutions.

He also said that the backlog of cases had become more serious in the trial courts due to the appellate courts.

"The backlog may be attributed to the cumbersome manner in judges try serious civil cases.

Almost 10 percent, or 2,500 of the total number of judges exist in the country, he recount, Puno said.

He cited how compensation packages, appointments related issues, and the rule on three items as the reasons practicing lawyers stay away from applying for the vacant positions.

"You see judges rank second in the number of killings next to journalists," he said.

Puno, together with Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, EJOW project supervisor chair, held a Dialogue with court officials and members of the local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. Joy M. Bonoan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Unicef: Child dies every hour in RP from accident

Based on a Unicef study, the top causes of deaths among children are drowning, road accidents, falls, poisoning and burns

DAVAO CITY—A FILIPINO child dies every hour from accidental injuries. Some 200,000 others get hospitalized for the same reasons and 4.2 million more youngsters need medical attention.

So Dr. Rafael Consunji, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) in the Philippines, the facts say that "clearly, we are not doing enough yet" in ensuring safe places for children from one to 14 years old.

Unlike other countries that have taken steps to prevent child injuries, the Philippines has yet to show a successful case in this respect, said Dr. Rhaima Ricardo, Unicef health specialist.

Hopefully, Davao City will lead in that program, Ricardo said.

Supportive LGU

On Wednesday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III started the program in Barangay Malvar in Davao City. The village adopted the program as its concept has already been promoting child safety.

Malvar's, with an internal revenue allotment of P1 million yearly, has more than 12,000 residents, 40 percent of whom are children, said its chief, Jose Lourenzo.

Davao City was chosen as pioneer site because injuries ranked ninth among the causes of deaths of children here and it has also successfully implemented programs against violence in women and illegal drugs, according to Dr. Rodolfo Albarracin, program manager of the Family Health Office of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Another factor that made Davao City ideal as a pilot site was the political support it gives to such programs.

Early steps

Duque dared villages in Mayor Genaro Mendoza and members of the council signed an ordinance adopting and implementing the child injury prevention program.

The Malvar's council, Department of Education and private groups in the village have done a checklist of safety measures to make homes, schools and communities accident free.

The program includes training its health workers, teachers and parents.

Top causes

Ricardo said the simple act of not hanging curtains near the stove could save lives.

Based on a Unicef study, the top causes of deaths among children are drowning, road accidents, falls, poisoning and burns.

Mendoza said the program will be expanded to Mandug's neighboring village of Manuchalib and in 74 more barangays in the city. Danerie Ordeo, Inquirer Central Luzon

DOG TAG DAY

DFF Student volunteers arrived at the venue past 10 am to arrange our booth as exhibitors. We were overwhelmed by the huge stage. The activity booths and other attractions which, actually, at second to a minute the offer, but are away for. Because on the program of the morning — to Classic our booth and decorate it well. As early as our arrival, we received people lining up the gates and waited for it. Seeing people still was just to get around. As soon as the gates opened at 8am, people rushed the booths. What we did next was to encourage the people to volunteer in our cause. Many of them were rather shy upon hearing for Relief. It is how their person came with him. We have been asked many questions about our Kuribot operations and the Disney week with the street kids. Past 9am the drama and rags arrived and people again flocked to our booth. Friends, schoolmates, and co-volunteers from Grade One reserved our booth as soon as they got in. We took turns in joining the activities and treating the booth. Our youngest volunteer from Cris Valdez, who is 10 years old, was interviewed on stage by the hosts and proudly declared his pledge: "Sa Dhow ang magbigay ako ay mga barang kulay ng pagmamahal ng sarili, pagkatapos ng bawat a pulang ng mga" which caused the crowd. The interviews were simple yet personal. It's like inside a huge school fair with a concert. The hosts were great, the interviews were so inspiring and the experience we had because as team to act and fulfill our commitment, especially was that we got hold of our Mac Mimis Bagtas.

DENISE SISON
Allied Productions
Founder, Dynamic Teen Company

For Mac Mimis Dog Tag Day was unlike any other event I've been to. Boring fairs and concerts, you'd usually witness a whole lot of bad behavior. You'll see a lot of yelling and shoving, ruling tempers, overall mess, agitated security guards, organizers and the other attitudes. Last Friday was a different to-do. It seemed like everyone was in a good mood. The line was packed, but people were patient. By the way people people were friendly and helpful. The selling booth owners were jumping. Do you've ever seen security hugging and security, although right, was very warm! I have gone out of the way but I thought it a good cause. I also knew the benefits of the audience was going to be great. It was a fun experience. Really the big audience →

NANCY ROSALES
Product Manager
Pepsi International

We're honored to be part of this advocacy where we encourage youth to make good use of their time by inspiring and motivating them through the music. Music, Kapatid and Kalinisan are the duo's time. Through this campaign, we hope we have made a difference and created an awareness. Take a stand, find something to be passionate about. Take initiative. For only then will things happen. Live. Work. Forward. Take a stand.

EMAN VESTIRO
Business Manager
Eli Records

Red Ribbon Week was completed as we thousands of people braving the scorching heat to join the event early in the day. The huge number of young people lined up at the charity booths was awe-inspiring. It was a clear signal that the youth weren't there just for the concert or the dog tags, they wanted to take positive action, do something for the country. The love of patriotism and nationalism is not extinct. I do hope it flourishes because the early signs that people want to get involved are all there. And this is precisely what Mac Mimis is about — every individual contributing to make a real difference. That we were given an opportunity to witness this and be an active part of it was an amazing experience.

ANNE SINTA
Group Head
Smart Marketing

When I read about Mac Mimis, I knew this was something my kids and their band, Old Skool, should get involved in. Old Skool is made up of kids aged 12-16. When the kids were informed about the concert, they wished for Mac Mimis' site and quickly got their parents' consent, allowing the stage where their idol bands would perform, and after their sound check the night before the event, they finally grasped the enormity of of it all.

We assembled at least before nine, and were all surprised at the long lines around the open field. Surprisingly, the kids were calm, though I could see the excitement in their faces — this was the biggest stage and biggest crowd they have ever played in, so it was an awesome experience. Aang, the singer, was so nervous that she started her song hilariously, but gained her confidence with the cheering of the crowd. After the girls' 8 in, Jeremy is lured left the stage for the boys (Nicolai, Kevin, Julio, Rob, Julius & Mikael) to do their thing. They were supposed to do "Parokya", Sana, only had their photos — so they were rushed pick.

The audience was so supportive and in high spirits — we even heard a few screams and a lot of applause during and in between numbers. Even if they didn't know the band, I think the guys did pretty darned good for a non-professional band in their biggest debut performance, and I was glad to read in this event because, no matter what the kids said they were super hired with this new stage venue. I know the message wasn't missed out there at all. In fact, one of the kids said, "I'll do this a benefit shows my age don't get chances to play in that many people, so I'm thankful for the experience & practice! we only I had a passion for music in the first place."

They will some their degree and can proudly say that

SUSAN GRAVELINES
Model
Old Skool Band member

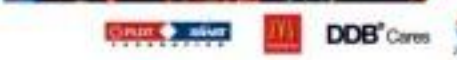
It's June 16, Wednesday and it's raining hard outside. But I'm happy. Actually it's more like I don't care. If this was Monday — my last week though, June 16, I would have been inconsolable. You see, we were going to have our Mac Mimis Dog Tag Day event on June 12, Independence Day, in an open field at Fort Bonifacio. Open field plus rain equals disaster. So we prayed hard — really hard for good weather. Thankfully, on Wednesday, the weather started to improve. The whole day of Thursday was sunny. Come Friday, June 13 it was hell! And so was the event.

I was inside when the people started coming in after getting their much awaited dog tags. You could feel the excitement in the air as youngsters in all shapes and sizes flooded the grounds, getting t-shirts, setting on the stall of corporate booths, taking photos in our star-studded blurry wave printed on the back photo booth or just walking around killing to meet parts of the various charity groups. The heat dissolved to energy and dehydrated but we loved every minute. The morning was a welcome relief from the heat but the kids were just warming up. Band after band came up and sang to a throng that cheered and danced tirelessly.

They say the crowd was estimated at 25,000. It sure looked like it. It was amazing to see how many people came to be one with us. For day to belong up this cause and doing what they can to create some kind of change in the country. Even if they just came for the dog tag, the fact that they want to wear it is enough. Endorsement is itself. To have that kind of turn out was truly awesome. And I am sure quality the effort for good reasons, you give us a good life. Thank you.

TERRY GONZALES
Executive Creative Director
SDR Cares

Photos courtesy of
FUCHSIATAS DAMOS and
TERRY UNLAL



Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

DID YOU KNOW

WHEN Jose Rizal enrolled at the Ateneo at age 11, his brother Paciano Rizal Mercado told him to obey the surname Mercado to hide their connection with such critics. Paciano was then widely known to have been signed blood oath Jose Burgos, who had been executed for his alleged involvement with the Cavite Mutiny of 1872. —Carol L. Rosaldo, Inquirer Research

Gridlock on Katipunan Ave.

MMDA plans to move U-turn slots to ease traffic flow

TRAFFIC flow on Katipunan Avenue is at a standstill Thursday morning with motorists adding at least two hours to their travel time. (Jose Ayroso)

By Alison W. Lopez

TO EASE THE PERENNIAL GRIDLOCK on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) may soon move its two U-turn slots away from the gates of schools in the area.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nazareno, who inspected the area yesterday with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, said they were studying three options while coordinating with officials of Miriam College and Ateneo de Manila University.

"We're trying to see what we can do. We can adjust the U-turn slots in deference to the entry and exit ORDINARY ASA

NBI probes complaint vs TV host, wife

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) has started investigating complaints filed against a television host-comedian and his wife by several people who accused the couple of issuing bouncing checks to pay for millions of pesos worth of jewelry and property.

The NBI said it would invite Jose Manalo—whose real name is Abel Pagkalinawa Manalo—and his wife, Annalyn, to give their side on the complaints lodged against them by jewelers identified as Vicky Mejia, Roel Lumbang, Pontificarion E. Halver, Annie Bucal, Marrell Upaldita, Isaias Encomienda, Sofia Lavoz, Trinidad Romero Egpa and Elvesta Pabalate.

Manalo, a comedian and one of the hosts of the noontime TV show "Eat Bulaga," was included in the consolidated complaint since he was a signatory in the checks issued to the jewelers.

The NBI, however, said it was Manalo's wife who was involved in the transactions.

The NBI said the couple could respond to the accusations against them through counter-affidavits or sworn statements.

It added it would then determine if the complaints against the couple is valid based on the documents submitted to them for evaluation, particularly by the sworn statements from all parties concerned and the copies of checks the Manalos issued as payment for jewelry and several pieces of property.

Several transactions

The jewelers said in their complaint that they transacted business with Annalyn on several occasions from 2006 to 2008.

Pabalate said that Annalyn bought more than P4 million worth of jewelry from her between October and November 2008. As initial payment, Annalyn issued several postdated checks totaling P932,500. The checks, however, bounced and Annalyn failed to settle her debt despite her repeated demands for payment, Pabalate added.

On the other hand, Lavoz said she delivered to Annalyn P325 million worth of jewelry which the latter failed to pay for because the checks she issued bounced.

The complainants said they tried to speak with Manalo regarding his wife's dealings with them but he was reportedly too busy to accommodate them.

Bought for commercial, Walden Glenn Pagan, the producer of Eat Bulaga, told the Inquirer that Manalo would rather not comment because the case is pending in court.

In a recent interview, Vic Sotto, Manalo's friend and co-host on the noontime TV show, said the issue was an old one.

"They've been paying on pay, for what they owe for a long," he said. The lawyers, referring to the couple. "It continues on with the jewelry and the (Annalyn) was stuck with the bill." Which Bayani Fernando is

He could have gotten off lightly had he kept his cool

By Jeannette I. Andrade

HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN OFF lightly had he kept his cool after he was arrested by the police.

Instead, a 24-year-old man on a motorcycle who was initially apprehended by lawmen in Manila for a minor offense ended up facing serious drug charges.

Two operatives of the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 1 in Binondo, Manila, were on patrol at around 2:20 a.m. yesterday when they flagged down a man who was riding a motorcycle on Claro Recto avenue corner of Sta. Fe Street in Tondo.

SPO3 Rony Magdiwa, MPD Station 1 desk officer, said SPO1 Reggie Bautista and SPO3 Enrique Miranda stopped the man after they noticed that he was not wearing a helmet.

Magdiwa said the two policemen only wanted to remind the motorcyclist of the importance of wearing a helmet. However, as they neared talking to the man, Bautista identified as Dexter Calderon, a resident of 106 JF Nac Compound in Kaunlad, Tondo, they noticed that he was drunk.

The lawmen said they asked Calderon for his driver's license but he could not present one.

When told by the police he'd be brought to the station for swabbing test, Calderon refused to go with them, resulting in a scuffle between him and the two policemen.

After they managed to subdue him, the police found Calderon and found shabu in his possession.

Calderon is now detained at the police station and awaiting the filing of multiple charges against him.

MetroBriefs

P2M vs human trafficking

THE UNITED States donated yesterday close to P2 million worth of equipment to "greatly enhance" the capability of the National Bureau of Investigations (NBI) in battling human trafficking. The donation bolstered the country's inclusion in the US State Department's watch list of countries which are not contributing to preventing global trafficking of persons. US Ambassador Kristie Kenney turned over to NBI Director Nonnatus Rojas a passenger van, bulletproof vests, wireless cameras, and computers to the agency in simple rites.

Jeannette I. Andrade

12 held in anti-gambling drive

TWELVE people were arrested in anti-illegal gambling operations conducted by the North Police District and Makati Capitol Police.

Police Office on Wednesday night in Caloocan and Malabon. Authorities raided a "sabungan" (a local form of gambling) as part of a crackdown on illegal gambling. They also confiscated several gambling paraphernalia like rolls of Spanish cards and fruit money from some of the gamblers.

Beverly T. Mabinlacad

Man just freed from jail slain

A MAN who had just recently gotten out of prison was gunned down by a still unidentified suspect in Navotas City on Wednesday evening. The victim was identified by the Navotas police as Paul Ramos, 36, a resident of Sitio Pritil Avenue, Pitong Gatang, Barangay Tejeros, Navotas City. Case investigator Reinaldo Hautdino said Ramos was out on drinking with some friends when a man shot him several times before fleeing on foot. Police said Ramos had just gotten out of prison and his assailant may be someone harboring an old grudge against him.

Beverly T. Mabinlacad

2 rob suspects arrested

POLICE arrested on Tuesday night two suspects at robbery after they victimized a Call center agent aboard a jeepney in Quezon City. Police identified the heroines as Alfie Ramos, 18, and Jenifer Llut, 20, both residents of Tatalon in Quezon City. They were positively identified by their victim, Mary Hernandez, 22, a call center agent and a resident of Barangay Salvacion, Quezon City. Hernandez told the police the two snatched her backpack containing two cell phones worth P22,000 and several identification cards. The bag has yet to be recovered. The police, meanwhile, said they were looking for three other robbers who managed to escape.

John M. Aurelio

Retirees' visa orientation meet

INTERESTED parties who may want to inquire about the Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) program are invited to attend an orientation meeting on June 25, 10 a.m. at the PTA Office, 2089 Don Chino Roces Ave. (Pasong Tamo) Extension, Makati City. Foreigners who are 35 years old and above can now enjoy the privileges that come with the acquisition of a long-stay visa processed within 10 business days after their submission of requirements. Call Scarlet Lachica or Sonia Baranda at 8851117 to 18 for details or visit the web site www.pcia.gov.ph, or fax 8851726.

Remove sexy billboards, Ebdane orders

By Kristine L. Alave

THAT THEN DOWN.

This was the order of Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane to outdoor advertisers as he expressed his all-out support for the crackdown on billboards featuring half-naked young men and women displayed over major thoroughfares.

Ebdane has ordered billboard owners to remove the "sexy" ads, saying they distract and slow down motorists, including him.

"They themselves know that some of these billboards are actually suggestive. They (outdoor advertisers) should [order] entirely remove these billboards," he said.

He claimed that sexy advertisements contribute to the worsening of the traffic situation in Metro Manila, already one of the worst in Asia.

Ebdane noted that these billboards make motorists lose their focus on the road.

DPWH Director for Planning Service Melvin Navarro said that for drivers, a split-second look at the billboards could lead to an accident.

'Surprise' inspections on auto shops on Banawe Avenue set

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE POLICE WILL BE CONducting surprise monthly inspections on auto supply shops on Banawe Avenue and other areas in Quezon City as part of their anti-car theft campaign.

Chief Supt. Elmo San Diego, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director, said the teams were discussed during a meeting earlier this week with auto supply dealers.

"We'll be conducting these inspections at least once a month to discourage the shop owners from entertaining thoughts of selling spare parts taken from stolen vehicles," the police official said.

To be imposed are around 600 stores selling vehicle spare parts on Banawe Avenue and around 100 others which can be found in other areas in Quezon City.

San Diego explained that the owners of these shops would be required to show documents which prove that their merchandise came from legitimate sources.

"Without the papers, that already constitutes a violation of the Anti-Fencing Law," he added.

According to San Diego, the car spare parts being sold in these shops are usually for old vehicles, referred to as surplus supplies.

"The owner [vehicle] models usually do not have surplus suppliers of their spare parts so if a certain shop is selling spare parts for new [car] models, it's reason for us to be suspicious," he said.

The meeting this week was attended by QCPD officials and operatives from the district's anti-car theft unit. During the meeting, the police officials that would be conducting the inspections were introduced to the shop owners.

"We also provided them standards on how the inspections would be conducted, the strengths, the policemen will be in uniform and unmarked mobile police vehicles. The operation teams will also be carrying mission orders which would make it official," San Diego told the car parts traders.

3 hurt in Makati City fire

THREE PEOPLE were hurt in a fire that struck a commercial building in Makati City yesterday afternoon.

The blaze started at around 3:30 p.m. in the Campos Rueda Building on Urban Avenue near Makati Medical Center.

Based on initial reports, one of the injured worked in the building.

Sgt. Virgilio Joaquin of the Makati Fire Department said his men were having difficulty in putting the fire which struck the old, three-story building.

At press time, the fire which reached Task Force Bravo has yet to be placed under control.

Alfonso IV. Lopez

Gridlock on Katipunan Ave.

From page A11

poison of lithium and stomach or add to that, or maybe it should be the schools which should adjust their entry and exit points," he said in a phone interview.

Hurtarte said that by moving their U-turn slots, they would avoid creating traffic bottlenecks near the gates of the schools.

The two MMDA officials conducted an inspection of Katipunan Avenue after receiving complaints from residents of universities who were stuck in traffic for several hours yesterday.

Nuñezcosa explained that the situation was due to the opening of classes this week and the additional 50,000 vehicles passing through the area with the opening of the newly-created U-turn slot on C-5 Road.

Aside from moving the U-turn slots, he said, the MMDA would also ask officials of Miriam and Ateneo to move their vehicle checkpoints further inside their campuses.

This would prevent the line of vehicles waiting to be inspected from spilling into the avenue, he added.

Nuñezcosa said they would also ask the schools' management to allot part of their property for the establishment of a loading/unloading bay for students.

"There are students who ride on passenger jeepneys on C-5. There should be a place where the jeeps can load or unload their students safely," he added.

At the same time, he appealed for understanding from the public as he vowed that the officials of both schools were now "more open" to changes than before.

"[This will be solved] maybe in one or two weeks. It will depend on how long they will agree [to our suggestions.] It's a matter of adjustment," he said.

UP fetes 28 top alumni

THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines Alumni Association will honor the achievements of 28 distinguished alumni at UP's first joint Centennial Alumni Homecoming tomorrow, June 20, at the Bulwagang Alumni sa UP Diliman.

To be cited are lawyer Asteril Ravina, Justice Emilio Gancayco, Claudina Diaz-Jimenez, Fr. Sergio delos Reyes, Bienvenido Tadiar, lawyer Ismael Mathay Jr., Dr. Benito Quimson, Dr. Alexander Gorion, Dr. Brenda Pajarillo, Felicitas Leyva Ramos, Dr. Nestor Jardin, Dr. Virginia C. Reyes, Dr. Erasmo Lesaca, Dr. Rolando Razon, Dr. Luciano Tolero, Dr. Candelaria M. Bello-Wilkis, Lourdes Trinidad Cruz, Dr. Daniel Chi Yap, Dr. Efraim Cruz, Jan Chapel, Dr. Walter Brown, Fritzie Lasnet, Dr. Alexander Palupug, Dr. Jigoine Primavera, lawyer Myrna Feliciano, Dr. Judy Taguiwalo, Antonio Calipjo Gancayco, de Castro and Paul Feliu (Ty-Emmell).

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ducos

Iran opposition sets day of mourning

TEHRAN—IRAN'S OPPOSITION PLANS A DAY of street marches and mourning on Thursday for protesters killed in post-election violence, keeping up the pressure on the Islamic regime over the disputed vote.

Facing their biggest crisis since the 1979 revolution, the country's Islamic rulers have gone on the offensive, arresting protesters and prominent reformists, tightening their grip on the media and banning use of "modifying" by foreign flees, including the United States.

Despite the crackdown, defeated presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi has rallied an his supporters to take the streets again on Thursday, dressed in black in a sign mourning for protesters slain in post-election violence.

Tens of thousands of people joined what was billed as a "silent" protest rally on Wednesday, wearing green wrist and head bands in the color of Mousavi's campaign and carrying banners accusing reelected President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of having "stolen" their votes in Friday's poll, witnesses said.

State television broadcast brief footage of the rally which was staged despite an official ban on such gatherings. The foreign media is barred from covering such events under restrictions imposed since the wave of public anger took hold in Iran, exposing deep divisions in the oil-rich nation.

At least seven people have been killed and many more wounded in the worst violence for at least a decade, with protests reported not only in Tehran but also spreading to other major cities across the country since polling day.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said he would consider a partial recount of the election that brought Ahmadinejad back to power in a landslide, after his defeated rivals lodged formal complaints of vote-rigging.

But Mousavi on Wednesday repeated his demand for the results of the election, which he branded a "shameful fraud," to be annulled and a new vote called.

World governments have raised concerns about the crackdown on Iran, particularly the police violence and widespread arrests, with some also foreign leaders publicly speaking of Tehran and vote irregularities.

The authorities, warning they would crush any "velvet revolution," have rounded up scores of people in Tehran and other cities, including prominent reformists and even former government officials.

In the latest sweep, Iran arrested on Wednesday Ebrahim Yazdi and Mohammad Tavassoli, veteran revolutionaries and leaders of Iran's Liberation Movement, the Etemad Melli newspaper reported.

In a sign of cracks emerging within the Iranian elite, a number of influential clerics—including a dissident once tipped as a potential successor to revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeini—have spoken out about the election results and the subsequent crackdown. AFP

PHOTO at left released by the Fars News Agency shows supporters of defeated Iranian presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi taking part in a rally in Tehran on June 17. Above, a woman in a city in support of the Iranian opposition in Paris.

CLINTON at a news conference on June 17.

Hillary Clinton fractures elbow

WASHINGTON—SECRETARY OF STATE Hillary Rodham Clinton fractured her right elbow during a fall on Wednesday, but chief of staff Cheryl Mills said in a statement released late Wednesday.

Clinton was on her way to the White House when she fell and injured her elbow, chief of staff Cheryl Mills said in a statement released late Wednesday.

Clinton was treated at The George Washington University Hospital, just a few blocks from State Department headquarters, before going home. She will undergo surgery to repair her elbow in the coming week, Mills said.

"Secretary Clinton appreciates the professionalism and kindness she received from the medical team who treated her this evening and looks forward to resuming her full schedule soon," Mills said.

Clinton had been scheduled to join actress Angelina Jolie on Thursday morning at a Washington event marking World Refugee Day. That event has been removed from Clinton's public schedule. AP

Autopsies suggest Air France jet broke up in sky

SAO PAULO—AUTOPSIES HAVE REvealed fractures in the legs, hips and arms of Air France Flight 447 victims, injuries that—along with the large pieces of wreckage pulled from the Atlantic—strongly suggest the plane broke up in the air, experts say.

With more than 600 pieces of debris recovered from the ocean's surface, the top French investigator on the case expressed optimism about eventually discovering what brought down the plane. But he also called the search conditions—he flew had in very deep waters—"one of the worst situations ever known to an accident investigation."

French investigators are beginning to form "an image that is progressively less hazy," Paul-Louis Arslanian, who runs the French air accident investigation agency BEA, told a news conference on Wednesday outside Paris.

"We are in a situation that is a bit more favorable than the first days," Arslanian said. "We can say there is a little less uncertainty, so there is a little more optimism. ... But it is premature for the time being to say what happened."

A spokesperson for Brazilian medical examiners told The Associated Press on Wednesday that fractures were found in autopsies on an undisclosed number of the 58 bodies recovered so far. The official spoke on condition he not be named due to department rules.

"Typically, if you see many limbed and multiple fractures—arms, leg, hip fractures—it's a good indication of a midflight breakup," said Frank Cuccio, a former forensic expert at the US National Transportation Safety Board. "Especially if you're seeing large pieces of aircraft as well."

The parents of Francesca was first reported on Wednesday by Brazil's O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper, which cited unnamed investigators. The paper also reported that some victims were found with fetal-type clothing and had no signs of burns.

"It's an in-air breakup like we are supposing here, the clothes are just torn away," said Jack Casey, an aviation safety consultant in Washington, DC and a former accident investigator. AP

More than 100 kids sue Obama over deportation of their parents

MIAMI—RONALD SOZA CELEBRATED his 10th birthday on Wednesday with cake and a serenade by more than 100 other children and their parents.

But one family absent. His mother was recently deported back to Nicaragua. His father rarely ventures out in public in fear of a similar fate. Now Soza and the other children—all US citizens whose parents could be or have been deported—are demanding a say in the immigration debate.

They are suing President Barack Obama, asking a court to halt the deportations of their parents until Congress overhauls US immigration laws.

The children, who gathered on Wednesday at the Miami nonprofit Americas Peaceful Initiative Institute, are among Peaceful Initiative Institute, are among a growing number of US citizens whose parents have been deported—or are facing the threat of deportation—as the country steps up its crackdown on illegal immigration.

Their deportations have left many children struggling financially and emotionally, and in some cases, in the foster care system.

"My grades went from A's to C's when my mom had to leave," said Ronald.

Nora Bendijo, the head of the Peaceful Initiative Institute, which helped organize the lawsuit, said the children, against the Bush administration, filed the suit in January in Miami and a hearing is scheduled for August.

Bendijo said she is frustrated that the Obama administration hasn't done more to address immigration reform.

"Today these children's voices are not heard," she said in dozens of youngsters sang "Happy Birthday" to Soza on a stage behind her. "But tomorrow these US citizens will be voting."

Perhaps not literally, but many of the more than 100 children who gathered on Wednesday are already to their teens and will be voting age by the next presidential election.

Bendijo says many of the children's parents came to the US before 1996 immigration changes made it more difficult for them to become legal residents. When they came, they had a valid expiration that if they stayed out of trouble for seven years, they could eventually become legal residents, she has argued.

Immigration reform on the state has a tough road in the courts because Congress explicitly made the law retroactive.

But the lawsuit may help get attention for the issue in the political arena, said immigration scholar Louis Delgado of the University of California, Irvine. AP

Swiss court finds lover guilty of murdering banker

GENEVA—A SWISS COURT on Wednesday found the lover of a prominent French banker guilty of murder for shooting her partner dead during a latex-clad sado-masochistic sex session four years ago.

After a scathing trial, a jury at the high court in Geneva ruled that Gerda Brossard committed murder, denying the defense team's plea for a crime of passion that would have automatically led her sentence.

Brossard had pleaded guilty to killing Edmond Stern at the beginning of the trial, which exposed the lurid detail of their relationship and a tale of sex, power and money.

The verdict means that Brossard, who has already been detained for four years, will face a minimum of 20 years in jail when sentencing is discussed in court on Thursday.

Fifty-year-old Stern, a prominent French financier whose circle of friends included President Nicolas Sarkozy, was shot in his penthouse flat in the western Swiss city during a sex game on July 29, 2005.

His corpse was found the following day, dressed in a full body latex suit with rubber holes in his head and another two in his torso.

Brossard, a 40-year-old French citizen, eventually confessed to the killing.

Her defense lawyers argued she was driven by passion and enraged under the pressure of a tormented four-year relationship with Stern, whom they portrayed as a "narcissistic pervert" and deeply manipulative.

Prosecution and lawyers for Stern's friends had alleged instead that Brossard was "venomous," cynically motivated by greed and the prospect of a $1 million payment for land made to her by Stern's boss. AFP

Vatican warns rebel traditionalists not to ordain priests

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN warned a rebel ultra-traditionalist order on Wednesday not to go ahead with plans to ordain new priests this month, saying the move could incur disciplinary action.

The Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX), in the headlines for having a Holocaust denier as one of its four bishops readmitted to the Roman Catholic Church, plans to ordain 21 new priests in three countries on June 29 and 27.

A statement said that if the ordinations go ahead "they are still to be considered illegitimate" despite an uneasy rapprochement under way between the SSPX and the Vatican.

It cited a letter by Pope Benedict in March in which he explained his decision to lift the excommunications of four traditionalist bishops and start a dialogue aimed at full reintegration of the rebels.

But the statement said disciplinary questions regarding the SSPX "remained open," a clear warning that if the ordinations were ahead they would have repercussions on negotiations to bring the traditionalists fully back into the Church.

The SSPX plans to hold the ordination of the traditionalist priests in Germany, Switzerland and the United States.

Bishop Yves Le Roux, rector of the SSPX's St. Thomas Aquinas seminary in Winona, Minnesota, said the ordination of 13 new priests would go ahead despite the Vatican warning.

"Absolutely. We are doing it," he told Reuters by telephone.

"This is something the Vatican feels it has to say. It's a political statement but the reality is totally different."

Catholic bishops had urged the Vatican to warn the SSPX not to go through with the ordinations, a plan seen as the SSPX's latest attempt to challenge Vatican authority.

The Vatican has made several concessions to the SSPX, the biggest being the lifting in January of the 1988 excommunications of its four bishops.

This meant they were back in good standing as Catholics, but they had no official function as bishops and therefore should not ordain priests or appoint parishes without Vatican permission.

The Pope prompted international outrage when he lifted the excommunication of Richard Williamson, and three other bishops were ordained in 1988 year old. All four began when they were thrown out of the Church for being ordained without the permission of Pope John Paul II. Reuters

THE POPE in a Saturday has as a general audience at the Vatican on June 17.

A park to call your own

Introducing the linear park

Most villages have only one park. At Lancaster Villages, there's a park in the middle of almost every residential block for the exclusive use of the residents.

This is the concept of the linear park. It's an open space which you and your neighbors can transform into anything you want—a patch of green, a field for games and exercise, or breathing space to enjoy life's precious moments.

The linear park harks back to those treasured days when children could romp around freely at a safe distance from their homes. It fosters friendships and a certain closeness that give you the opportunity to get to know your neighbors better, because you share the same space. Best of all, it strengthens family ties by providing you with more options on how to spend the day with your family.

Refreshing and revitalizing

The inclusion of the linear park in LancasterVillages has many advantages. For one, the park enhances ventilation, bringing fresh breezes inside your home. Natural light is more abundant. Think of glorious mornings walking around the park and golden afternoons teaching your kids games from the good old days.

Lancaster Villages makes real the kind of life you've always dreamed of. It offers a delightful combination of convenience, practicality and accessibility, all rolled into one picturesque package.

Lancaster Villages is part of Lancaster Estates, a sprawling 150-hectare development that covers Imus, Kawit and Gen. Trias in Cavite.

Profriends launches Lancaster Villages

A warm, celebratory mood enlivened the grand launch of Lancaster Villages. Close to a thousand people showed up to be a part of such a special event. Agents and their buyers came from Metro Manila, the nearby Cavite towns and even as far as Batangas to join the fabulous fiesta.

The event kicked off with an orientation getting motorcade participated in by 20 agent vehicles and 11 Kabalikat Owners on motorbikes. They drove through Aguinaldo and Centennial Avenues and Pandayan Road, to SM Bacoor, then Emilio Aguinaldo through Potrindy Arcos, all the way back to Lancaster Estates.

A short ceremony to bless the Gold Icons and Bacoor house model units (two dressed-up and two as delivered) was officiated by Rev. Fr. Alden Alpon, OAR.

The ribbon-cutting honors went to the senior executives of PRO-FRIENDS, Inc., headed by its chairman, Ms Catherine Chua.

Members of the Cavite provincial government led by Mr Alex Advincula were guests of honor. Together with Mr Gus Leonardo, Ms Anja de Guzman, Mr. Nieves Santos, Mr. Cali Galang and Mr. Joey Tordoya, all from PROFRIENDS, Inc., they unveiled the Lancaster Estates monolithic scale model to reveal how vast the property is.

It was a gratifying day as guests roamed around the linear park which was equipped with a special water fountain that made everyone feel cool and relaxed.

How to get to Lancaster Villages

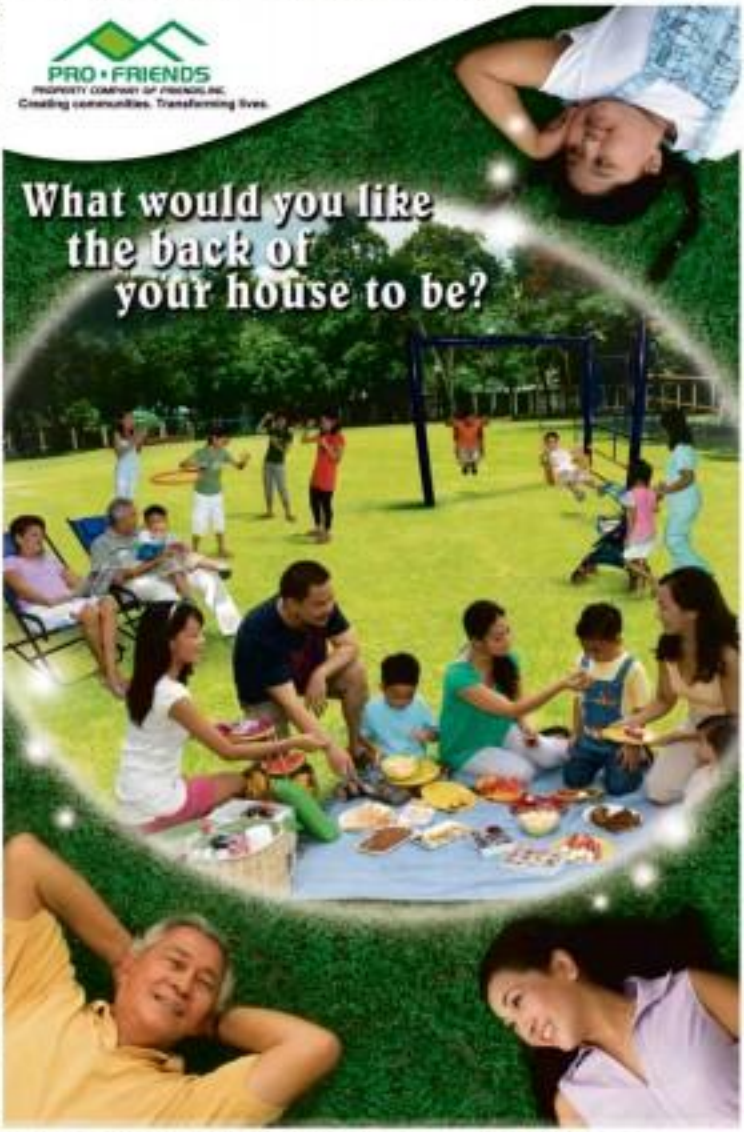
1. Through Coastal Road, passing through Bacoor Poblacion, Tirona Highway and Covelandia Road

2. Via Aguinaldo Highway, passing through Bakakeñas and Alapan Roads

3. From SM Bacoor, passing through Tirona Highway and Strokirayan

For inquiries, call 491-7700 or log on to www.profriends.com

PRO-FRIENDS
PROPERTY COMPANY OF FRIENDS, INC.
Creating communities. Transforming lives.



A picnic ground? A fresh area for relaxation? A playland? At Lancaster Villages, you can make it what you want. Lancaster Villages is part of a 150-hectare development from ProFriends that covers Imus, Kawit and Gen. Trias in Cavite. Its main feature, the linear park, is exclusive to all residents within the block - several square meters of open space, right in your own backyard! Amenities such as country club, swimming pool, basketball court and chapel will be made available for you to enjoy. You can rest easy knowing you're in a safe, secure community.

LANCASTER VILLAGES
at LANCASTER ESTATES
A Park to Call Your Own

Call (02) 491-7700 or visit www.profriends.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Nguyen, Chan renew rivalry /A28

Editor Tuddoc S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Manila Bureau: [illegible] | E-mail: [illegible] | Website: [illegible]

■ Wet, long US Open under way /A30

GET UNRELENTING POWER IN YOUR DRIVE.
GO FOR PETRON XCS WITH 95 OCTANE RATING.
Powered by premium organic combustion technology, Petron XCS gives you a cleaner burn and optimum engine performance wherever you go. Unleash the power of your car with Petron XCS now.
PETRON XCS COMPLETE COMBUSTION SYSTEM
PETRON

SAN Miguel spiker Bonbon Custodio (left) drives off Burger King's Gary David and Shawn Daniels in Wednesday's game. NOEL PABUSTAN

Beermen, E-Painters shoot for 2-0 buffers

By Marc[illegible] B. Castillo

SHAWN DANIELS TRIED TO DISSUADE SAN Miguel's rout of Burger King Wednesday night with a simple "they scored more points than we did" statement.

But others pressed for a serious explanation, the lucky reason since "Our defense was just terrible tonight. But we'll be OK."

Daniels and the Whoppers try to bounce back tonight from that 102-85 whipping when they clash with the sock-solid Beermen in Game 2 of their Worldfit PBA Fiesta Cup semifinal series at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 7:30 p.m. contest is all the more critical for the Whoppers since falling into a 2-0 hole against a powerhouse squad like San Miguel will surely doom Burger King.

Fans or [illegible], or the rise psychologically after downing [illegible] to separate best-of-seven series with defending champion Barangay Ginebra, also notch a tryout win in the Tuesday contest.

Unlike the Beermen, the Illusio Painters remain the underdogs against the Gin Kings with the injured Sebastian Mercado still out of commission and Ryan Arana expected to miss the game after becoming his right wrist in the second quarter of Game 1.

The Sweetness finished Burger King stars Gary David and Arwind Santos to a combined 12 points on 1-of-15 shooting from the field in the first game and Whoppers coach Nenad Vucinic said that fueled the runaway victory.

"We have to keep the scores close, the games close and the series close," Cuntic, the national team caoches assistant said after giving his words a long drooling down in the locker room.

"Everyone expects them (Beermen) to be here, if we can keep it (series) close, maybe we'll see the pressure ramp up on them.

"It was just one game. If you ask me if we've lost confidence or anything, we haven't. We're fine psychologically."

Hotshot coach Coloy Garcia said "it was all about heart" following the Painters' 101-93 win over Giraffes.

The Illusio Painters prevailed after coming back from 11 points down with a depleted lineup and an import still recovering from a bout with the flu.

SEE PAGE A-28

THE NEW Mazda MX-5 & Mazda3 LIMITED
THE HOTTEST RIDES ONLY AT THE
ZOOMFEST
MAZDA ZOOM FEST 2009
Catch it at all Mazda Dealerships • June 20-21, 2009
HOT NEW MAZDA MODELS
Launch of the latest Mazda vehicles:
The New Mazda MX-5 • Mazda3 1.6L V Limited
Mazda3 1.6L S Limited
HOT DEALS
Chance to win a premium item for every test drive
Drive home a Mazda with All-in Downpayment offers*
Avail of discounts on Mazda Genuine Parts & Services
HOT CELEBRATION
An exciting display of celebrated Mazda vehicles:
Classic roadsters from Miata Club Philippines
Convertible & Station Avenue
Tricked-out machines from Mazdaworx Club
and Club Mazda3 (Makati)
The amazing Mazda BT-50 – TRS Drift Truck
(Subang & Pampanga)
Tune in to Magic 89.9 on June 20, from noon to 6PM,
for live updates from DJ Mo Twister straight from the
Mazda showrooms.
MX-5
Mazda Alabang 772-7 to 10 • Mazda Greenhills 722-1102 • Mazda Makati 751-5255 to 58 • Mazda Quezon Avenue 712-0000
Mazda Balintawak (632) 355-1622 • Mazda Cebu (032) 238-2222 • Mazda Pampanga (045) 459-0000

GO TENG KOK: Out of favor

Go confirms breakup with boss Cojuangco

By Jun Nocum

NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHIEF Go Teng Kok yesterday confirmed that he was sacked by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. as executive assistant last week.

"Maybe he forgot that I already have three votes, aside from those 50-to- national sport associations I aligned with me," said Go.

The Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president is also the head of the Philippine Kurash Federation while long jumper Marestella Torres, who recently scored a win in the POC general assembly with voting powers is a staunch Go supporter.

Torres and boxer Harry Tafavorres were appointed as athletes' representative to the POC general assembly with the same rights and privileges all POC members enjoy.

"I am now pack my bags and the independent together with my NOAs," said Go, whose support helped Cojuangco win a second term over shooting chief Art Macapagal during the POC election last year.

"It's his (Cojuangco) loss, not mine," added Go.

Cojuangco, who went to Italy to visit some relatives, wouldn't be reached for comment.

"His Cojuangco will arrive on Monday, maybe that's the right time for us to talk," said Go, who also heads the rules committee of the POC. "But as far as I'm concerned, everything is over."

Go said he would remove POC spokesperson Jovy Romasanta as secretary general in Kuosa.

Romasanta said he is not aware of Go's arrangements with Cojuangco.

Romasanta said signs of the Cojuangco-Go breakup showed when Go failed to attend meetings for the Southeast Asian Games preparations last week.

RP OPEN BADMINTON

Nguyen, Chan renew rivalry

By Jaeview W. Faye

A SPOT IN THE WORLD'S TOP 10 MAYBE is right for the tournament favorite.

Nguyen Tien Minh of Vietnam, ranked 11th in the world, shoots for the crown and precious world ranking points in the men's singles of the 2nd Bingo Kwanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships on July 7 to 5 at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

Seeded second in the tournament, Nguyen has been tabbed as favorite after stunning world No. 1 Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia in the recent Singapore Super Series.

Nguyen also defeated world No. 10 Chan Yan Kit of Hong Kong, the tournament's top seed, in the finals of the Vietnam Open Grand Prix last December.

The $120,000 tournament, rated as a four-star or gold event, offers local players a chance to enjoy World Badminton Federation points.

Chan and Nguyen lead the 57-man international field that includes Filipinos Rafph Jan Mendez and Kelvin Dalisay.

The Olympian Nguyen shocked Asia the 17th spot to No. 11 following a string of victories that also includes the Vietnam International Challenge and a pair of Last 16 finishes in the Asian Badminton Championships and Malaysia Super Series.

But Chan is expected to pose a challenge to end-to-end a long overseas title drought.

Chan could only muster a Last 32 finish in the recent Asian Championships, Swiss Open Super Series and the All-England Super Series.

The 2nd seed will face his against third seed Lee Tsuen Seng of Malaysia and a star that includes China's former world junior champion Cheng Long and Ye Hongyu, Hongkong's Pan Pei-tee and Wong Wing-ki, Malaysia's Pan Eng Cheng and Israel Arun Ayob, Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto and England's Andrew Smith.

Also seeing action for the hosts are Ian Bautista, Peter Magnaye, Antonio Lindo, Jopet Resano, Wilmar Wise, Edwin Bengzon-Rey, Raymond Mallila and Wilfredo Anuncio.

NGUYEN Tien Minh's power-packed game will be a top attraction

RP entries notch 3 wins in Asian kart kickoff leg

TUMALIM: Second

THE PHILIPPINES clinched three titles against the region's best in the kickoff leg of the 2009 Asian Karting Open Championship at the Kartdrome de Coloane Circuit in Macau recently.

Jet Rowlings Franco, Prince Reyes, Marlon Jaro and PCB Tough Goal's Archan Lorenzo Lagmayo joined the big wins for the JSP karting team, which also posted two runner-up and one third-place finishes.

Reyes assembled the most impressive result in the Formula 125 Junior crown over Mohammad Ghanif Rahadyo of Indonesia, third placer Hafizal Bin Mayes of Malaysia and fellow Filipino Jose Ordunez of Brazil's Ethan Yuan.

Reyes completed the 10-lap run in 18 minutes and 5.103 seconds, 1.149 seconds ahead of Rahadyo in the race made tougher by rains.

Jaro swept the Pre-Final and Final runs, wrapping up the 15-lap race in 18:13.416 or just 0.091 of a second ahead of Hugo Bradley semifinals for the Mini-80 class.

Lagmayo, on the other hand, topped the Yamaha Cup Junior division against eight rivals with a time of 18:10.075. Goh Jiecuan claimed runner-up honors.

Reigning Asian POC Senior champion John Tumalim of Pampanga came up a tough fight against defending Asian Karting Open champ Tio Sritrai of Thailand before settling for Formula 125 Open Senior runner-up honors, just 0.416 of a second behind Sritrai.

Another Jet Racing hurrer, Christian Gadol, took third place in the Mini-80K division.

Equestrian body searching for new riders

THE EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines hopes to strengthen its grassroots development program this year by looking for new talents, PSAF president and Subay party-list Rep. Cristine Cuenca said yesterday.

"We will go around the country and find young horse riders from the Mountain Province to Mindanao," said Cuenca, noting that promising riders have emerged from bay cities like Baguio, Tagaytay, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

Cuenca, a former national rider, said it is also a pleasure to spot that "the kids of some of the horse owners also are good riders."

Novice competitions in the provinces are in the works to entice new riders, said Cuenca, also a former chef d' equipe for the country's top riders.

"The youth of our country is our greatest strength," she said. "We hope to find the best young riders in the country side."

The PAF recently tapped five foreign coaches and trainers, including Olympic candidate Stanny Van Paesschen of Belgium, to help prepare its athletes for the Southeast Asian Championships in Thailand later this year.

Paesschen was part of Belgium's team jumping squad that took the bronze in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Swiss coach Brigitte Roach, Jos Kamps, the gentleman Sebastian Phillon Lainez and Slovakian Frank Frenzel will also train the national team led by Olympians Toni Lorenzo, veteran rider Jonni Lanza, Joker Reyes and Australian-based World Cup rider Michelle Barrera. Jasmine IV. Faye

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AUCTION MALINTA

TRUCKS – HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

Inspection Dates
June 16 to 19, 2009

ALL PARADE

Auction Date:
June 20 & 21, 2009
Starts at 8:30 Sharp

MANY NEW ARRIVALS FROM JAPAN

For more details call
(02) 361-4888 • (02) 864-4741 • (02) 864-4750 • (02) 710-4133

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel: (02) 850-8888

NBA Finals: All in a day's work

ONE OF THE THRILLS OF OUR WORK AS sports is getting a foreign assignment for a major event and seeing idols in the flesh.

Covering Filipino athletes is always a joy but sometimes there's an assignment like the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez World Cup when we have two Philippine participants. Those jobs don't happen very often, so you value each one as a learning experience.

Gilbert Arenas' Bullets made it to the United States with only five for the NBA Finals TV coverage on CNN. He's ranked this delightful piece Sean Orlando Abreu coming to terms with the Utah Finals as being all in a day's work:

"While walking along the cavernous hallways of the downtown Aretha Rading Media Availability Day on the eve of Game 1, I can't help but capture mental snapshots of the NBA Finals media madness.

"My bizarre ride on walking alongside (while making sure I don't get accidentally trampled on) NBA magnates from the Los Angeles Lakers and the Orlando Magic. Strangely, though, I don't get starstruck.

"Perhaps, there is simply no time to process the moment. At one point, you spot your voice recorder at Lamar Odom. It is famous or so, you join a gathering around Derek Fisher.

"Myself and Kobe as the opposite, we just stay focused on the things we can control, says Fisher, who unknowingly provided a four-morning of events in Game 1, drawn with us. There's always an opportunity, especially at this level to come back and you capitalize a lot on effort than you had the last time."

Nevertheless, I approach Saturday shooting guard at media. The former Duke three-time All-Star announcer in a ensemble one and looks as comfortable as a midthrown vogue to lower the high school prom.

"I am here about his unpredictable playing time, Arenas said in earnest.

"It's frustrating, but I'm used to it now," Rodick, who went an 11-to-for-6 points in 17 minutes in Game 4 after sitting out Game 3, says. My playing time all season has just been random. I started eight straight games in a row in the playoffs and then I didn't play in the Cleveland series. I'm used to it now. I just wait with it and try to be as ready as possible when my name is called."

No NBA representative types the media to leave the room and allow the Orlando Magic to officially begin practice. Everyone complies.

"I stop by much towards the exit gate when I see Hubie Brown shaking hands and amongst with ABC/ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy. Mike D'Antoni Rockets head coach Rick Sutton, ABC/ESPN Anchorman Mike Breen, widely regarded as the best point American sports announcement, pops out of a room and comes in hand.

"Nice. Catch up on stories, both in short-sleeved shirts, Kiddo shows and running shoes, are taping for the next day's broadcast.

"I must realize why there's no time and room, place for exquisite in Media Day. Everyone's at work. Coaches, star players, role players, executives, communications, for international reporters and NBA league representatives are all working for a living. This is their office.

"My NBA Finals Media Day ends when I almost bump into seasoned ESPN radio analyst and highly respected coaching legends Hubie Brown and Jack Ramsay in the lounge out door. They're here to socialize somewhere and prepare for Game 1 just like everyone else.

"I politely allow them to go ahead. In awe of the confidence of a man in one of his walk and place in the basketball universe. You go ahead."

Beermen, E-Painters shoot ...

From page A23

"I think we just have to continue rallying on each other," he said.

Jai Lewis should be a key factor from he was on Wednesday, and he will have to work extra harder together with Gabe Norwood and Dick Hemmings to lift the Elasto Painters, who are in their first ever semifinal stint.

Its depleted team the Suns or Elasto Painters in Game 1. But even Ghetsome Rasheed was fielded in for the first time in months and still contributed to the win victory.

Ben Dubay and TY Tang also provided bench-up support while utilizing for the injured Mercado.

Harry's wish: 2018 Asiad in RP

PSC CHAIR Harry Angping (center) and national shooting chief Art Macapagal (right) visit the Guangzhou main stadium, venue of the athletics competitions of the Asian Games.

Gov't can sell bonds to raise funds for new venues, says PSC chief

By Mart Anthony Reyes

GUANGZHOU, CHINA—THE 2018 Asian Games in the Philippines?

Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping broached this idea on Thursday after meeting with the organizers of next year's 16th Asiad, which will be staged in this booming, rapidly growing city.

He said he had asked President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother, shooting chief Art Macapagal, to suggest to the Chief Executive the possibility of bidding for the 18th edition of the quadrennial Games which was last held in the country in 1954.

Macapagal joined Angping in visiting the 2.73-square kilometer Guangzhou Asian Games Town, which is three of about 20,000 workers are building for the Nov. 12-27 Games.

"Why not?" said Angping. "Imagine the economic activity it would generate back home."

He expressed confidence that the country can come up with the budget to build the infrastructure for the Games.

Guangzhou's budget

Guangzhou is spending 2 billion yuan (about P14 billion) to build the Games' venues.

"All the big companies will come in to help build the Philippines' games venues), and we can sell bonds," Angping said.

The 2014 Asiad will be hosted by Incheon, South Korea.

The last big sporting event the country took on was the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, where the Filipinos emerged overall champion for the first time.

Most of the SEA Games events were held outside Metro Manila, although some sports were still staged at the 55-year-old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila.

The 1965 Games will have 42 sports, including newly added events like dancesports, roller sports, cricket and dragonboat. About 14,000 athletes are expected to compete.

The Asian Games Town at the foot of the Li-shan Mountain will have a comprehensive stadium that will stage competitive events like track and field and swimming.

Thirty-nine other new facilities are being built, including one for beach volleyball.

PSC CHAIR Harry Angping (left) receives a memento from Chinese Sports Minister Liu Peng during a courtesy call in Beijing, where the Chinese National Training Center is also located.

Tougher NCAA title defense for Red Lions

By Jeannine N. Faye

DEFENDING CHAMPION ANG MGA KOLEGIYO a tougher grind when the NCAA basketball competition rolls off on June 27 with a record 10 teams in the Seniors Division.

"It's going to be harder because there will be more games," said San Beda coach Ronnie Linn. "We just try to play one to three times a week and that's crucial to the campaign."

Three more schools will see action in Season 85 of the country's oldest varsity league after the NCAA invited Emilio Aguinaldo College, Arellano University and Angeles University Foundation to play as guest squads.

The Lions, who will miss the services of star players Ogie Menor, Pong Escobal and Nigerian Sam Ekure this season, kick off their bid for a fourth straight championship against Mapua at 2 p.m. on opening day.

"Season will never be easy for us now, parang with the past two years," said Linn. "All my starters graduated, so I think it's going to be a tough year for us."

Jose Rizal University last season's runner-up, takes on Lyceum at 4 p.m., followed by the 6 p.m. nightcap between Perpetual Help and San Sebastian College.

The game rosters debut on June 29 with Angeles University Foundation battling St. Benilde at 2 p.m. and Emilio Aguinaldo College fighting Arellano University at 4 p.m. at the FEU-NRMF Sports Arena in Sun Valley.

But if the season's tournaments are any indication, the Lions remain among the top seeds following a championship run in the 2009 Nike Summer League and a semifinal workup in the PBOA Flying V Pre-Season MVP Cup.

New recruit Jordan Dendi, the Arellano rookie tabbed to fill the void left by two-time NCAA MVP Yeng Guiao, is expected to lead Colegio' charge along with JR Nuyles, Dave Marcelo, Sam Concepcion, Garvo Lanete and John Pascual.

"Nothin will get better," said Linn of the 6-foot-7 Dendi. "There's no way but up. He can bring in domination, like what Ilovo gave us. He'll be capable of doing that given the chance."

V-League champs Scoop guests

SPORTS FOUNDATION PRESIDENT REYNEL MARCELO and members of the newly crowned V-League champions University of Santo Tomas, as well as Col. Jesse Mercy, chief of mission to the First Asian Youth Games, will be the guests in today's edition of Scoop session at the Kamayan Restaurant in Pasay City.

The Scoop session will start at 11 a.m. and is aired on selected bases by Sports Radio.

Pasay 3-cocker gets going

COCKERS FROM THE PROVINCES BATTLE it out for top honors today in a special 3-cocker at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Participants from Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija pit their Metro Manila counterparts in vying for the P200,000 prize, according to Pasay City Cockpit manager Ricky Ramos.

Fights are slated at 1 p.m.

SPORTSWATCH

Ing to Susie Clancy and Lito Salas.

More than 40 fights are lined up starting at 1 p.m., according to PCC executives Eric delaRosa and Butchoy Claro, who suggested the entry fee is P5,500.

'Rambulan' draws 119 entries

THE ONGOING FS-MILLION FAMILIAS 5-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum has attracted 119 entries after only two days of battle.

Three more elimination rounds will be held on June 20, 22 and 23, according to SJC philanthropy chairman Shin. The finals is slated June 27.

Participants who still want to enter tomorrow must submit their entries today at the SJC office.

Entry fee for the derby is P8,800.

BALDNESS
Stop Suffering In Silence

The nagging questions: Why me? Why are my friends and colleagues not losing their hair? Am I doomed to go bald?

Stop suffering in silence. Face the fact that hairless, left untreated, usually leads to baldness. Then call Svenson. Our professional trichologists are qualified hair and scalp analysts. It costs nothing to have the cause of your hairloss identified and a customized hair recovery program recommended.

Treatments revive scalp health, stop thinning and facilitate the growth of stronger, thicker hair.

In no time you'll stop worrying about baldness! Call now for a FREE private consultation.

Svenson
call 892-HAIR (4247)

SPORTS

PAR 70, 7,426 YARDS

Wet, long US Open under way

TIGER Woods studies his course guide during a practice round Thursday. —

FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK—PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP WINner Henrik Stenson summed up the challenges facing the field at Bethpage Black in the US Open starting on Thursday (Friday morning in the Philippines) in three words.

"Hard. Long. Wet," the Swede said.

The term assessment was corroborated and elaborated upon by many of the top players among the 156 starters—including lone Filipino Juvic Pagunsan—who qualified in the championship by finishing second to the Asian qualifying held in Japan last month.

"The difficulty of Bethpage is how long it is," said Australian Geoff Ogilvy, the 2006 winner at Winged Foot.

At 7,426 yards off its back tees, the brawny public course at Bethpage State Park is the longest layout used for a US Open.

Pessimist rain over the last six weeks has saturated the course and showers are forecast for the next four days on a track lengthened 200 yards since 2002, when Tiger Woods won the Open here.

"Easy makes for meager will no no-brainer.

"The golf course is playing long," Woods said about his practice rounds. "They moved the tees back. I don't feel like I've gotten any shorter since 2002, but man, I'm just swinging out my long irons.

"With the weather coming in here this week, it's only going to get longer and harder and it's going to be even more difficult."

Ogilvy, a double winner on the PGA Tour this year, pointed the meeting of the course that goes all the way out in the front nine before returning the players home.

"It does feel like you go on an adventure and you come back for the crescendo to the finish," he said, referring to the testing quarter of holes from the 15th.

The Black Course, playing at par 70, features seven par-four holes in excess of 450 yards—there are were 3000—many of them finishing in elevated greens guarded by bunkers and rough.

Rainless would not single out any holes as tougher.

"All the par fours then are long in numbers—if you don't hit the fairways, you're off straightaway," Woods said.

"I don't know if one is going to play harder than the other. But I could give you a list of five or six reasons of one."

On the other side of the ledger, offsetting have options in placing the tees to tighten the yardage if they choose.

Soft ground also considers into more receptive greens, which are relatively flat by Open standards.

US Ryder Cup player Anthony Kim gained confidence from his turn as caddie for pop singer Justin Timberlake last week in a made-for-TV celebrity challenge over Open layout.

"If you hit long irons or hybrids or whatever you have into the greens, the ball is holding," said Kim. Reuters

Ariza keen on staying

EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA—Trevor Ariza says he would love to return to the Los Angeles Lakers next season.

The fifth-year forward becomes an unrestricted free agent on July 1, along with Lamar Odom, who made $14.1 million this season and turns 30 in November.

Ariza earned $3.1 million this season and he raised his price considerably during the postseason, when he averaged 11.2 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.3 steals during the Lakers' run to their 15th NBA championship.

One of the lasting impressions Ariza left on Lakers' management is stopping Orlando's Hedo Turkoglu in the Game 5 clincher Sunday, Ariza ran in 24 to him June.

Ariza had his season-ending interview with coach Phil Jackson and GM Mitch Kupchak Sunday.

"I definitely felt a lot of love," Ariza said about the atmosphere at the meeting. "They told me I improved a lot and they're happy with the way I played and how much I helped our team. AP

Ardina, 2 other RP bets gain WWGA 2nd round

DOTTE ARUBA WAILAE GALeon Ellenisaw of Iloilo, 4 and 2, Wednesday to reach the second round of the WWGA Women's Philippine Golf Association National Amateur Championship at the Manila Country Club in Iloilo.

The win set up the 15-year-old sprathead at the ICTSLIP team against Oklahoman Kelly Pachik, who eliminated Michelle Ellis of Minnesota by the same score.

Reigning SP Ladies Open champion Leonie Maruda and Olivier Borda also advanced but Sarah Abalos was booted out by Barbara Ilarina of Iloilo, 1 up.

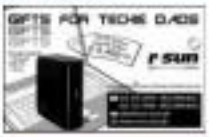
Borda, eyeing a third-round clash with low medalist Kristina Wong of New York, whipped Erin Hilsdorf, 4 and 2, to arrange a second round clash with Jacqueline Williams of California.

Maruda outlasted Gerry Brown of Texas, 2 and 1, and will face Rachel Smith of Texas.

DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS - Nike and SM to Skating Nike officials on their recent visit to the Nike ice skating rink, part of the 21st annual Nike Summer Sports Clinic, which also held training programs for future champs in badminton, basketball, bowling, chess, football, gymnastics, karatedo, tennis, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball. The nationwide sports program was conducted by experienced coaches. From left, Nike NCR corporate coordinator Margot Jimenez, MadeAVP and Nike sports arena executive Piz Gu-ong, SM Ice Skating Rink operations supervisor Jolet Farmigo, SM rink manager Marcelito Boladay, Nike sports and PR executive Lester P. Castillo and Nike sampling champion Anne Tayag.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE
At San Lazaro LP



Editor Raul G. Manalo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nartatez

BUSINESS

RP expects slow, steep climb to recovery

BSP lays to rest speculation that country will slide into recession

By Michelle V. Baron

ALTHOUGH THE PHILIPPINES MAY NOT SLIDE INTO a recession, unlike most of its neighbors, the domestic economy is still in for a slow, steep climb to recovery, with inflation seen to be benign over the next few years, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

While growth will be constrained—which means that the rise in demand for goods and services will also be small—consumer prices may remain stable over the medium term, the BSP said.

Asked to comment on concerns that the economic downturn might lead to a recession and result in contraction of consumer prices, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said such fears could be laid to rest, citing the central bank's projections.

"I don't think disinflation will emerge in the Philippines... More important, I expect growth with very mild inflation in the next few years," Guinigundo said.

Also, severe spike in oil prices need not lead to recessionary inflation levels, he said.

Recent expectations that the crisis has bottomed out and the global economy is on its way to recovery has pushed up oil prices.

Some analysts believe that a recovery-led increase in demand for

BY EXPECTS B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Market Rider:** Pullback or reversal /B2

■ **DBS says RP** budget gap may balloon to P339B /B3

PSALM moves deadline for IPP contract bids

By Amy R. Baron

THREE INVESTOR GROUPS BIDding for supplying management of the National Power Corp.'s Independent power producer contracts for the 1,000-megawatt (MW) Sual and 700-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants have just been granted a new lease on their bids.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) had given in to the request of the bidders and moved the bid-submission deadline for the IPP administration contract to June 26.

"The three investor groups have been formally informed of the new bidding schedule," PSALM said, without disclosing names of the bidders—two of which are local companies.

But Team Energy Philippines president Federico E. Puno has confirmed that Marubeni remains a qualified bidder for the IPP contracts of Sual and Pagbilao. Aboitiz Power Corp. meanwhile had earlier expressed interest in participating in the bidding.

Team Energy currently operates the two coal power facilities under a build-operate-transfer agreement.

PSALM B4

I know the importance of great service.
That's why it's always on the menu.

To experience The American Express® Gold Credit Card, call 631-8000.

Apply now to enjoy 1st year annual fee waiver

BDO
Exclusive Issuer of American Express® Cards

My life. My card.

ABS-CBN sees net of ₱300M

Airtime revenue in May hit P1.4B

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. POSTED record-high net income for May and a double-digit rise in cash flows in the first five months over a year ago as airtime revenue growth gained momentum this second quarter.

The network still likely post a net income of P300 million for the said month, up by 34 percent over a year ago. It would so be be the highest monthly net income posted by the company. ABS-CBN chief financial officer Rebecca Fabricante said yesterday.

Airtime revenue banked for the month hit P1.4 billion.

But the most critical indicator of the company's business, ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III said, would be its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda).

"Ebitda or cash flow is reflective of how our business is growing," he said in a briefing after the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday.

In the first five months, the company's Ebitda was up by 20 percent year on year to P1.5 billion.

In terms of business line, the company was still behind last year's level for the first five months but this would improve by June, Lopez said. He said the second quarter's performance was "very good." However, he said ABS-CBN would not yet revise the "flattish" profit guidance earlier set for the whole of 2009 relative to last year.

Among the challenges for the company this year, he said, would be its cost management.

ABS-CBN president Ma. Rosario Santos-Concio said the organizational transformation of the company would continue and spread out to the subsidiary levels. "We're still doing a business review of our subsidiaries like Star Records, [ABS-CBN] Interactive and our international operations," she said.

Valdivieso said the company would continue to rationalize costs, after realizing P500 million in cost savings in 2008.

He said the company was targeting to generate additional savings of P250-P300 million this year and another P200-P350 million next year.

ABS-CBN is optimistic on its business despite the domestic economic slowdown.

Pullback or reversal

MARKET RIDER

Dave Saniera

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE market? That is a question on so many stock market wonks' and **his friends' would like us dimly as** they try to thin else the market with technical reasons arise at a decision whether to jump up is take advantage of the current **weakness across the markets.**

Actually, our stock market players in the virtual game are faced with the same quandary as the mentors. The market last Monday, June 15, penetrated to hit its next big target, which was placed at the 2,427 level of the main Philippine Stock Exchange index, the PSEi. Following the market's strong close for the week last Thursday.

At the virtual game

Encouraged by this trading result, the "bargain" mid there "buy" orders just before opening bell on Monday. The first was 200 shares of SM Investments Corp. (SM) at P518 per share. Second, was 20,000 shares of GMA Network Inc. "common" (GMA 7) at P6.90 per share, which was validated at P6.90. At **was explained already before.** following actual trading rules, the highest "bid" price gets the opening "bid," price, which was P5.88. Third, was 100 shares of **Philippine Long Distance Tele**phone Co. "common" (TEL) at P949.00 per share. This was voided as it was a wrong order.

To digress, institution or ma**ket happens when you cause or** don't give yourself enough time to review your trading calls. Re**membering the first rule of the** market, 'you must "win your trade even before you begin." We can't, therefore, over emphasize the importance of preparation before taking action.

His reasons for picking up each of these stocks were the same: "Relative undervaluation on account of positive earnings growth."

As the market still ended in the **positive although not as strong as** the previous close, he gave another round of "buy" orders on Tuesday, June 16. These were: 10,000 shares Alliance Tires at P1.42 **which was validated at P1.38** as said stock opened at such price; 30,000 shares of Splash Corp. (SPH) at P3.05 per share; and 100 shares of Globe Telecom Inc. (GLO) at P895.00 per share which, again, was validated at the opening price of P890.00

For his second tranche of trading orders, "relative undervaluation" was his basis for his stock picks.

The "QB Trader" sent what went to be a sold throughout trading order in the afternoon of **Monday, June 15, for execution** the following day declining entered with the "bargainer," the already-denied to buy 10,000 shares of SFH at P3.05 per share which was **validated at the opening price of** P3.00. He also ordered to buy 2,000 shares of Security Bank Corp. (SECB) at P42.00 per share.

Characteristically laconic, **she has one short remark about** her stock picks. They have "lots of room for growth."

The "CycleMaster" just sent this message: "Market has yet **into the corrective phase al**ready. Still early to buy since a .382 retracement should be in order. Share prices may just re-

MARKET RIDER 04

PHILEX MINING CORPORATION

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS

Please be informed that the regular Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of **PHILEX MINING CORPORATION** will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. The order of the business thereat will be as follows:

1. Proof of required notice of the meeting
2. Proof of the presence of a quorum
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous stockholders' meeting and action thereon
4. Reading of annual reports and action thereon
5. Ratification and approval of the other acts of the Board of Directors and executive officers during the year 2008
6. Appointment of independent auditors
7. Appointment of election inspectors to serve until the close of the next annual meeting
8. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws to increase the number of directors from nine (9) to eleven (11)
9. Amendment of the By-laws to separate the position of Chairman from Chief Executive Officer
10. Election of directors
11. Other matters

The election of directors will include the two (2) new directors under item 8 should this amendment be approved.

For the purpose of the meeting, only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 3, 2009 will be entitled to vote thereat. Please bring some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company I.D. in order to facilitate registration, which will start at 12:30 noon.

Any stockholder who cannot attend the meeting in person and desires to be represented thereat is requested to date and sign the proxy enclosed herewith and mail it back using the return envelope. The proxy should be mailed in time so as to be received by the Corporate Secretary on or before June 15, 2009, which is the deadline for submission of proxies.

Minutes of the last annual stockholders meeting and resolutions of the Board of Directors will be available for examination during office hours at the office of the Corporate Secretary.

Proxy validation will commence on June 16, 2009 at 10:00 am at the offices of Philippine Stock Transfer, Inc. at the Ground Floor, Philex Building, 27 Benton Street, Pasig City.

BARBARA ANNE C. MACALLOS

NOTE:

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL STOCKHOLDERS BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING. Stockholders who are unable to attend in person are requested to **IMMEDIATELY SIGN, DATE and MAIL** the accompanying form of proxy, in the event a stockholder decides to attend the meeting, he may, if he wishes, revoke his proxy and vote his shares in person.

The prompt return of proxies will save the company the expense of further request for proxies in order to ensure a quorum.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of June 18, 2009

Currencies

June 19, 2009 Currency	Unit	Buy Equivalent	Sell(a) Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.71 USD	1.00 USD	47.7 PHP
Japan	Yen	0.00 YEN	0.01 YEN	0.0 PHP
United Kingdom	Pound	1.1 GBP	1.6 GBP	74.3 PHP
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.09 HKD	0.13 HKD	6.1 PHP
Switzerland	Franc	0.63 CHF	0.91 CHF	42.7 PHP
Canada	Dollar	0.61 CAD	0.87 CAD	40.9 PHP
Singapore	Dollar	0.49 SGD	0.71 SGD	33.1 PHP
Australia	Dollar	0.5 AUD	0.73 AUD	34.1 PHP
Bahrain	Dinar	1.87 BHD	2.71 BHD	126.9 PHP
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.18 SAR	0.26 SAR	12.2 PHP
Brunei	Dollar	0.49 BND	0.71 BND	33.1 PHP
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00 IDR	0.00 IDR	0.0 PHP
Thailand	Baht	0.02 THB	0.03 THB	1.4 PHP
Chile	Peso	0.00 CLP	0.00 CLP	0.0 PHP
EU	Euro	1.00 EUR	1.45 EUR	67.9 PHP
Korea	Won	0.00 KRW	0.00 KRW	0.0 PHP
China	Yuan	0.10 CNY	0.15 CNY	7.0 PHP
Denmark	Kroner	0.13 DKK	0.19 DKK	8.9 PHP
India	Rupee	0.01 INR	0.02 INR	1.0 PHP
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.20 MYR	0.29 MYR	13.6 PHP
New Zealand	Dollar	0.5 NZD	0.73 NZD	34.1 PHP
Sweden	Kronor	0.09 SEK	0.13 SEK	6.1 PHP
Taiwan	N. Dollar	0.02 TWD	0.03 TWD	1.4 PHP

Source: Bankers Trust Company as of 8:00 a.m. (Manila time) — BSP

(a) Rate for buying cash or other TT BSP. **Rate for selling cash or other TT BSP.

DBS says RP budget gap may balloon to ₱339B

Expected deficit may be highest since '85, says bank

By Rascel P. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT MAY INCUR A budget deficit of P339 billion, or about a third more than the current target as reduced growth forecasts dampen the revenue collection prospect, according to DBS Bank.

The Singapore-based bank said in a report issued June 16 that government spending could reach 4.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), or the total value of output for the year.

The DBS figure is higher than the latest government target of 3.2 percent announced a week ago.

"We said this would be the country's largest deficit "since at least 1985" and, as a percentage of GDP, the largest in six years.

"We are not confident that the P250 billion deficit target can be met," DBS said. "The government's newly revised 2009 growth forecast range of 0.0 percent to 1.0 percent is still overly optimistic, with our own estimates pointing to growth of 0.5 percent."

The bank added that revenue collection would continue to be a source even as the government lowered its revenue target to P1,208 trillion from P1.296 trillion.

Last week, officials said the Department of Finance had pared down the target tax revenues for 2009 to a total of P1.07 trillion following the revision of the expected growth range for the domestic economy.

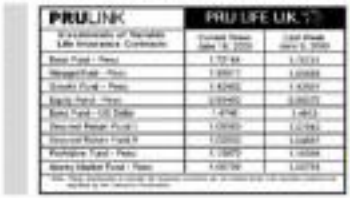
According to DOF data, the Bureau of Internal Revenue now aims to raise P798.6 billion for the entire year, down by P52 billion from the previous target of P850.6 billion.

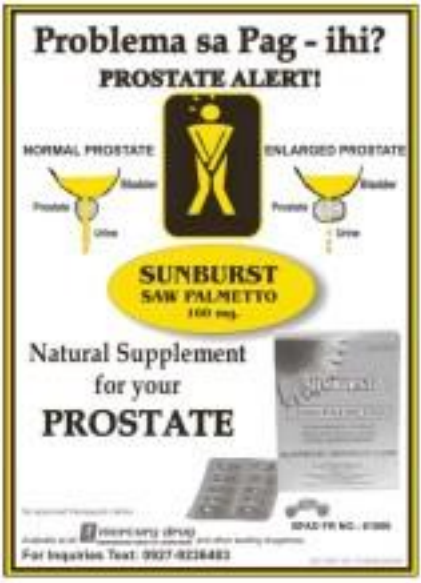
At the same time, the program for the Bureau of Customs' collections has been adjusted to P271.2 billion, or P4 billion less than the previous P277.2 billion.

"Amid slowing economic growth, revenue collections have been a struggle and, last week, the government missed its annual budget deficit target for a fourth time," DBS said in its report.

Maintaining originally meant to say the deficit at P80 billion. But this was increased to P163 billion, and then to P277.2 billion, before the latest target was set at P250 billion.

"Although the 12-deficit numbers are hard to predict month to month, they will be keenly tracked as the overall budget deficit for the year continues to remain at risk of exceeding official forecasts," DBS said.





Fujitsu to expand presence in RP

IT solutions and service provider bought for $48M

By Dazlin L. Lacar

JAPAN-BASED INFORMATION technology and communications firm Fujitsu has unveiled plans to expand its presence in the Philippines after its $48-million acquisition of the Australia and South-east Asia operations of Supply Chain Consulting Pty Ltd., a SAP and Oracle enterprise solutions implementation firm.

In a briefing yesterday, company officials expressed confidence in the in the local and international IT services market despite the ongoing global economic crisis.

"Fujitsu's confidence will be translated into a plan to build Supply Chain's Manila site "into a center of excellence for the region in the enterprise resource planning (ERP) space," an official said.

"Supply Chain Consulting is a leading global provider of enterprise-wide software solutions and this acquisition will further improve the services we are offering to our clients, especially to Manila," Supply Chain Consulting Phils. director Raymund Lacdao said.

"The local office holds many opportunities with the booming Philippine IT industry and Manila will be the center of excellence for the region with regard to ERP software solutions," he added.

The acquisition will result to expanded service offerings for Philippine clients, with Supply Chain Consulting's expertise, reputation and capabilities supplementing Fujitsu's wider vision and global reach.

The move is also expected to generate additional SAP software and services income for both companies, with consolidated IT communications solutions and ERP products.

Fujitsu has reported $53 billion in consolidated revenue for 2008 and this deal will allow the firm to offer more services to clients, the company said.

Fujitsu's Australia and New Zealand CEO Rod Wardley said the acquisition would extend the company's investments in the SAP and Oracle segment. This, he said, would allow the company to offer several services and capabilities to its clients and provide it with the necessary scale to service larger enterprises.

"Combining Fujitsu and Supply Chain Consulting, we have one of the strongest portfolios of SAP and Oracle solutions, customers and capabilities and this will globally enhance Fujitsu's competitive and offerings in this area," he added.

Fujitsu's SAP and Oracle solutions will be supplemented by offshore capabilities in the Philippines, providing additional global benefits to customers with offices, facilities and services located globally, he explained.

Common vs preferred

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY?

That's the pleasant problem that holders of common stocks of the country's biggest food conglomerate, San Miguel Corp., face today.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, SMC announced it was giving those shareholders the option to exchange their stocks for preferred shares which shall have a dividend rate of 6 percent per year.

For this purpose, the company will issue a new set of preferred shares valued at P75 per share. The exchange ratio will be 1:1 or one preferred share for every common share.

The offer aims to address the reproachment by some stockholders about the long-term effects of SMC's investments in non-food businesses, such as Meralco and Petron.

Those who decide to avail themselves of the option can look forward to a fixed payback on their investments every year as long as they keep their shares.

The preferential treatment puts them ahead of common stockholders who are content on cash dividends only when the board of directors decides to share the company's profits with them.

The trade-off for "assured" dividends is the loss of the right to vote the company's directors in the annual stockholders' meeting.

Surplus profits

For conservative investors and those who bank on their stocks as a source of extra income, the promised dividend is an attractive feature.

Left unsaid in the equation, however, is the fact that, under our laws, cash or stock dividends can be given only if the company has sufficient unrestricted retained earnings for surplus profits) for that purpose.

In case there are no such funds, a company cannot, in spite of a unanimous consent of its chief, give the promised dividends to its preferred stockholders.

They are not on the same level as the company's creditors who could, as a matter of right, demand payment of the amounts due them as they fall due, regardless of the company's financial position.

Preferred shareholders are considered investors of the company and so, the dividends payment is contingent, their income line to rise and fall with the fate that a company goes through in the course of business.

Following the "trust fund doctrine" that governs the handling of corporate funds, the creditors are at the top of the list in the hierarchy of payments.

If there are still available funds, the preferred shareholders come next. The common stockholders will have to contest themselves with whatever may remain after the claims of the two groups have been satisfied.

Dividends

Whether or not SMC can consistently maintain the surplus profits needed to live up to its promised annual dividends as predicted stockholders remains to be seen.

No one has yet been found or system invented that can foretell with reasonable accuracy the future of any business enterprise.

Remember how the economic giants of the developed countries, for all their sophisticated theories and barometers, failed to anticipate the present global financial crisis.

The surprise is that SMC's prospects is to remained treated of profitability during all these years.

There were times when its profits were modest, compared to the company's total asset value, but it do not recall any year when it simply broke even or suffered a loss.

In this unlikely event that the company's non-performing investments' hurdle can and its bottom line is adversely affected in the process, the promised dividend earnings to preferred shareholders will nonetheless be adversely affected.

But if the investments turn out well and add more zeros to SMC's profits, the preferred shareholders cannot share in the extra bonanza.

Their share in the windfall will be confined to the fixed dividend rate. Only the common shareholders will have reason to rejoice for the good harvest.

Voting rights

The loss by preferred stockholders of the right to vote a company's directors is no big deal for passive investors, or any one who is not considered an institutional or big ticket investor.

The question of who should sit in the board or compose the management team is often left to the majority stockholders.

The small fries are better off coping in the sidelines when the big whales fight for control over the corporate sea.

Unless a stockholder's holdings constitute at least one percent of the capital stock in a company with narrow voting margins, his vote will hardly make a difference in the election of directors.

It is not unusual though for preferred shareholders who have a lot of time in their hands (read: retirees or bored housewives) to attend stockholders' meeting despite the fact that they cannot participate in the election process.

They find joy in registering, getting copies of annual reports and, if the company is in a charitable mood, going home with food or grocery items as freebies.

Lest it be misunderstood, however, the lots of voting rights is limited to the election of directors.

Preferred shareholders have the right to vote in acts that affect the fundamental structure of the corporation, such as, amendment of the articles of incorporation or investment of corporate funds in other businesses.

Simplistic as it may sound, how or who runs the company doesn't really matter, as long as the promised dividends are delivered on time.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph)

CHF Oil Mills eyes biodiesel production

By Rina T. Olchondra

CHF OIL MILLS GROUP, THE LARGEST OIL miller in the country, is considering producing biodiesel as it explores higher value uses for coconut oil.

"We are looking at engaging directly in biodiesel production. We already have the feedstock as part of our supply chain and an integrated set up," CHF president and CEO Danilo Concepcion said.

Concepcion said CHF could go into biodiesel production without needing much capital and infrastructure.

"We have the crushing and oil milling facility, we have the refinery, we have the chemical plant which is Cocochem (United Coconut Chemicals Inc.)—although it is not directly under CHF—which can be retrofitted to produce biodiesel," he said.

The existing chemical plant would entail retrofitting which may cost millions of pesos but Concepcion said it would be a lot cheaper than building a facility from scratch.

CHF is already dabbling in biodiesel indirectly by supplying the feedstock to biodiesel producers.

However, Concepcion noted an overcapacity in the biodiesel sector right now. There are 10 biodiesel producers accredited by the energy department.

He said the 10 have a total production capacity of 250,000 metric tons per year. With the mandated 2 percent coconut oil blend in diesel, the total requirement is only 150,000 metric tons at this time.

Concepcion said CHF would be more encouraged to produce biodiesel once the country increases the biodiesel blend to 5 percent coconut oil.

At 5 percent blend the need would be about 250,000 MT (a year) and the existing capacity would be about fully utilized as there would be room for more producers, he said.

"We also have to look at developments in the regional market as possible outlets of our biodiesel," Concepcion said.

"We could supply the Thailand's one ton fat oil since the price of petrol had been going up.

"Besides, with the Kyoto Protocol due in 2012 the initiative toward implementation of a serious increase in the utilization of biodiesel is on screen," Concepcion said.

RLC, Omico renew deal

SOBERDONG LAND CORP. HAS renewed its joint venture agreement with Omico Corp. to push through with the second phase development of The Wellington Courtyard Tagaytay, a four-star residential building project under the Subdivision Commercials brand.

Further development of the property will enable RLC to keep up with strong demand. Wellington Courtyard's Building B was sold out early this year.

Located along Tagaytay-Nasugbu road and Mayor's Drive, Wellington Courtyard phase two will be composed of three five-story buildings which will have a total of 134 units. All buildings will have a loft floor at penthouse level and an architecture exactly inspired under the Subdivision Commercials brand.

RLC's partner Omico Corp. is a publicly listed Filipino company engaged in mining and property development.

The company has two other projects in Tagaytay City—Scotts Ridge Hotel Complex and Bloomfields Tagaytay.

Portfolio Summary of Virtual Players as of June 17, 2009

Date	Stock	Shares	Price /Sh	BOP	BUY	Cash Out	%	Gain (Sh)
			1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00		
The Rookie (No case trades)								
	BOP	800,000	1.30		1,040,000.00	800,000.00		80.00
Dean Mo (Reverse trades)								
	SMPH	50,000	9.00			450,000.00	280,270.00	
	PIC	50,000	5.40			270,000.00	280,270.00	
	BOP	50,000	1.30			65,000.00	280,270.00	80.00
Pedro (No trade trades)								
Cyclefreaker (No case trades)								
	PSEi	10,000	3,130			31,300,000.00	280,270.00	80.00
All Trader								
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
Babyguy (No case trades)								
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
		1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000,000.00	280,270.00	
Trades (No executed trades to list)								

Market Rider

From page B1

bidet mounted steel quarrier hammer due to window dressing. Will just e-mail her/ (reading) orders." "The Oracle" and "Pericles" seem to share the same sentiments. They remain quiet.

"Trader107" actually gave a trading order in the afternoon of Tuesday, June 16, for execution on the next day, but she subsequently called it off before midnight, saying "Sorry I won't push through with the order ... Would expect a down surge/sideways range of prices tomorrow."

Bottom line spin

And surely the market did. At the end of trading on Wednesday, June 17, the PSEi was already 104.46 points down from the close on June 15 at 4,230.21.

On hindsight, it appears that the local market is finally affected by the sharp market volatility on Wall Street. US investors had been vacillating. Doubts on the ability of the US economy to recover soon continue to surface. The "better-than-expected" story line could no longer influence positive reaction as well. Thus the overpowering of the US dollar added fuel to have the sharp rumble of DJIA stocks as of late. This caused profit-taking in the local market in order which, in the process, underdressed investors' confidence, forcing them sell off.

If the market at this time had failed to retest the record high of 2,610 point level, it is very likely that stocks would be heading downward to test the next support below the 2,400 levels. *(See rabbit advice.)*

(You may reach the Market Rider at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph or directly at desmarie@yahoo.com.)

RP expects slow, steep climb to recovery

From page B1

oil will fuel speculative activities, which in turn, lead to a sharp rise in oil prices.

"But while the NSP said it was monitoring movements of oil prices in the world market, Guinigundo said the spike would not likely create inflationary problems in the short to medium term.

"Lots of money possible for inflation to reflect higher oil prices in the global markets, but by this increase is not sustained, you have to examine that. the economic recovery is just around the corner, and is coming fast and strong. That is not the case. It is possible there will be recovery, but the recovery may be slow," Guinigundo said.

For this year, the government projects the economy to contract between 0.8 and 1.8 percent. This was a cut from the original projection of between 0.1 and 1.1 percent, marking a sharp slowdown from last year's record growth of 4.6 percent.

The reduction came after it was reported that the economy contracted in terms of gross domestic product, gross by only 0.4 percent in the first quarter, the slowest in 10 years.

The lackluster growth in the first three months prompted some analysts to project that the economy would continue to deteriorate, resulting in a contraction this year.

Economic managers, however, did not agree. They said the worst that the economy would suffer would be a period of growth as low as 0.8 percent this year.

PSALM moves deadline for IPP contract bids

The Sual and Pagbilao power plants are up for transfer in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

At present, IPPs are contracted to supply power in Visayas. When contracts expire, the plants return are turned over to the private sector, the winning bidders will then manage the contracted capacities of the government in its IPP power plants.

The privatization of 70 percent of the government's IPP contracts is one of the requirements of the limit set in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, before open access and retail competition can be implemented.

In the BOO selection process for the Sual and Pagbilao plants, PSALM explained that it would ease the ownership and approach wherein bidders, when preparing their bid submissions, will have to focus in the contracted energy that they will assume, including subsequent ownership of the power plants.

PSALM further stressed that it would only take over IPP contract to check concerns regarding market dominance.

SkyCable offers more affordable cable package

By Doris C. Dantes

LEADING CABLE TELEVISION PROVIDER SkyCable Corp., which is part of the Lopez Group of companies, is now bracing its market as a cable and a subscription plan as soft as low as P300 per month for the lower-income segment of the market.

"We're trying to make cable more affordable now to C market. At only P300 (per month), we hope that will entice a significant segment of the market which is currently watching TV," said Eugenio Lopez III, chair of SkyCable parent company ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

In a briefing at the sidelines of ABS-CBN's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday, Lopez said that as SkyCable had pretty much penetrated the 'A' market, the next thrust was to target bigger market segment.

The regular SkyCable monthly package for high end subscribers starts at P700 to as high as P8,000 depending on the array of channels, resolution and speed. SkyCable accounts for about half of the about 1 million cable TV subscribers in the country, said SkyCable managing director Carlo Katigbak.

Katigbak said the low-end cable package will be launched only a few weeks ago and the results had been "encouraging."

The P300 monthly package includes 38 channels but subscribers have the option to buy additional channels.

"You can customize the package and no longer pay for the channels you don't watch," Katigbak said.

From page B1

sions, will have to factor in the contracted energy that they will assume, including subsequent ownership of the power plants.

PSALM further has stressed that it would only take over IPP contract to check concerns regarding market dominance.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Rupisan

Voters as consumers

Q: WHERE ARE YOUR conventional marketers. We are marketing not a product or a service, but a political candidate, a presidentiable. He doesn't know yet, and we've yet to convince him.

MARKETING Rx
Dr. Neal Roberto
& Andy Roberto

In the last presidential election, we used your analysis of voters and their voting behavior. You touted them as if they were like buying consumers. We liked what we read then, wish to seek your advice now.

Detergent buyers

Here's our question. Why are voters in the coming presidential election behaving like consumers of detergents? If we look at the SWS and Pulse Asia survey data, voters are choosing among five or six "brands," namely, Noli, Manny, Gibi, Mar, Loren and Erap, and each candidate has almost the same following as the others. Even worse is the survey data saying that only 7 percent of voters consider corruption as a priority issue in the coming election.

Isn't that behaving like detergent consumers? One brand (or candidate) is just like any other brand (or candidate)?

What is happening to our voters? Where's their love of country? Whatever happened to their sense of shame and rightful indignation over injustice and evil deeds? What can your consumer behavior and marketing analysis tell us about what's going on?

R: In responding to your questions, we obviously agree to your invitation to diagnose what's happening in today's voters using the consumer behavior and marketing lens. And we feel honored to do so.

Start where the consumers are

In any decision, or in solving any problem, we should never start where we are as marketers. Rather, we should always start where the consumers are.

Your own indignation is showing when you ask: "Where's their love of country? Whatever happened to their sense of shame and rightful indignation over injustice and evil deeds?" This is how strongly you feel about this coming presidential election and voting behavior. And we understand where your indignation stems.

But this is you as the marketer of a person-to-be-marketed candidate. That's starting from where you are as a marketer.

Just because you feel strongly about this coming presidential election does not mean that voters or most voters feel the same way. Look at things down from where the consumers or voters are, especially the poor and silent majority.

Voting is low involvement

You don't need another survey to know that to most voters, the coming presidential election does not mean much. For them, voting is what marketing terms as "low involvement" behavior.

It is in this sense that to them as you did their voting behavior is that of detergent consumers is correct.

Consumer research has shown that to most users, detergent is low involvement. They will just buy any other detergent brand if the brand they are looking for happens to be out of stock. They won't go out of their way to look for their detergent brand.

But they would "walk a mile to look" if it's their brand of jeans or cigarette. That's because jeans and cigarettes are high involvement products. Their jeans or cigarette brand stands for who they are or how they see themselves.

From all indications, today's voting is low involvement to most voters. If it were not, the share of votes of the leading presidential candidates wouldn't be so close together.

There would be a clear, distinctive winner who would command a majority (more than 50 percent) of votes and not just an unimpressive (some plurality share of less than 30 percent).

If voting were high involvement, most voters would have quickly dismissed up as they did in Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 over the repeated "shameless abuse of power" of the national leadership.

Wrong reading

But most voters opted to stay at home, which you incorrectly interpreted as lack of "rightful indignation." That's a wrong reading of most voters' sense of moral shame and it's just as, or even more, incorrect to look at their regard for the coming election as a lack of rightful indignation.

Why is there this "unbelievable" sense of low involvement in most voters' regard for voting and the coming election? This have actually repeatedly burnt the answer in recent surveys when Class D and Class E spoke this way of past elected presidents and the current one: "Kaho naman po ang naging presidents, hindi naga sumoro anoh pong nagawa para mahuwan kami sa kahirapan." The matter who was president, no one was able to do something to get us out of poverty.)

In marketing parlance, it's a repeated case of "consumer dissatisfaction."

Blame the mess of Premiere Common Ingredient, there has been too frequent, too premature and undue delivery, especially to the poor and silent majority of voters. This is not an accusation. It's a statement of fact. To be disappointed over and over again, the poor and silent majority needed to cope.

The coping mechanism that most chose is simply to not vote and use their votes as an indictment voting and the election.

So what can Marketing Rx conclude from the foregoing?

Firstly, you should apologize to the poor and silent majority of voters for assuming that they have no more love of country and no more sense of shame. Secondly, you must realize that the majority's poor and silent voter majority is a non-choice low involvement regard for voting into high involvement.

Ah, here some ideas, but these come from consumer behavior studies.

The psychology literature on behavior modification and attitude change would probably be most pertinent for your purposes.

We recommend that you consult those sources.

But if you wish to get our ideas, let us know and we'll see if we can accommodate via another Marketing Rx column.

(Drop your questions coming Andy's way is at MarketingRx@phildev.com.)

LIFESTRAW Personal

PERMANET mosquito bed nets

By helping others, firm helps itself

By Jo-Anne E. Pulhares

FEW COMPANIES COULD TRULY claim that the products they are selling help mankind. Veepo Global Resources Inc. feels it more than it can.

Veepo recently introduced here in the Philippines innovative products from Switzerland. Permanet impregnated to prevent the transmission of vector-borne and waterborne diseases, such as dengue, long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN) mosquito bed nets and curtains and LifeStraw water purifiers.

"After seeing the products offered by Swissquam Travellers, it really got me into this whole public healthcare thing," Veepo Global Resources Inc. president Renato N. Pe said in a recent briefing. "I decided to form a partnership with them to bring the products here."

Swissquam Travellers, a Swiss company started in 1957, is a leading innovator, manufacturer and exporter of emergency response medicines and control products.

According to World Health Organization, the Philippines is one of the top malaria endemic countries in the Western Pacific region. Of the 79 provinces of the Philippines, 60 are home to the malaria-bearing mosquito.

The Permanet bed net is a polyester, pyrethroid mosquito coil that kills and repels mosquitoes and house flies. Deltamethrin, one of the safest insecticides, is applied to the netting fibers. It has been widely used in public health for the last three 10 years.

"In 2004, Permanet joined the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme, making it perfectly safe for the whole family, including infants and pregnant women," said Harvey Jain, regional retail head of Swissquam Travellers India Private Ltd.

The ready- and easy-to-use Permanet mosquito net can last for three years. It has a coating of dark repellent, inc. to keep it down longer.

The Permanet bed net has a complimentary product called Permanet curtains. Made of the same material as the bed nets, these curtains for doors and windows prevent many of mosquitoes into homes for at least two years, if washed once every four months.

"Avoiding mosquito bites is one of the easiest ways of preventing malaria, dengue and other diseases caused by mosquitoes. Use of insect screens and ordinary mosquito nets are only act as barriers but cannot be substitutes for Permanet. They don't kill and get rid of mosquitoes," Pe said.

"According to the Global Malaria Program of WHO, LLINs are the most cost-effective way of controlling malaria, which was found to have a connection with poverty," Jain added.

MARKET Jain explains the dangers of vector-borne and waterborne diseases.

Veepo sells mosquito nets, water purifiers

EFFORTS Pe gestures during the launching of Permanet long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN) mosquito bed nets and curtains, and LifeStraw water purifiers in the Philippines.

Other products from Swissquam Travellers that Veepo Global Resources Inc. launched are the LifeStraw water purification devices—the LifeStraw Personal and the LifeStraw Family.

LifeStraw Personal can purify up to 700 liters of water. It removes 99.7 percent of waterborne viruses and almost all waterborne bacteria.

The complimentary LifeStraw Family, meanwhile, is designed to provide clean and safe drinking water in the home for a typical family of four for up to three years. It can purify at least 18,000 liters of water, and removes practically all waterborne parasites, viruses and bacteria.

The LifeStraw product line does not need electricity or batteries, and the filters do not need replacement during its lifespan. It does not need running water supply, making it ideal for the rural and semiurban areas.

"Our offering will be available through retail stores across the country," Pe said. "We also made it a point to make these products affordable for everyone."

Veepo Global Resources Inc. is already working with the Department of Health (DOH).

"We are currently undergoing necessary partnerships and certifications with the DOH. With that, we will make sure that we will be working with them as we are open to every partnership available," Pe said. "The long-lasting mosquito net is already used by the DOH," Meredith Martinez, regional director of Western Manila PF Swissquam Travellers Indonesia, added.

KRISPY KREME

Giving in to the urge for sweets

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHILE KRISPY KREME IN THE United States is struggling with declining sales because of growing resistance to high-fat and high-sugar treats, the Krispy Kreme franchise in the Philippines is experiencing the opposite.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Local franchise holder of Krispy Kreme, Golf the business in an interview that sales as of May have been on target despite the global recession. It adds that has forced many Filipinos to save, rather than splurge on treats like a Krispy Kreme doughnut.

Fuentebella attributes this to marketing campaigns designed to bring the iconic doughnut to consumers, such as the sale last year of specially designed Krispy Kreme donuts honoring heroes de Manila University and De La Salle University.

Actors eventually won the UAAP men's basketball title, but not before the fans, supporters and students from both schools lined up to buy a donut with their school colors.

"That campaign was so successful that even the Krispy Kreme CEO took notice of it," Fuentebella says.

Another campaign is the Chocolate Carnival.

Choco-flavored donuts were prominently featured on billboards, flyers and advertisements, to get Filipinos to give in to the urge to walk to a store and get that donut fix.

Krispy Kreme has three factory stores in the Philippines at Rockwell, High Street, Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Mall of Asia and seven retail outlets in leading malls.

Fuentebella says Krispy Kreme in the Philippines intends to come up with similar campaigns to keep the Filipino craving back for more donuts, instead of spending on cakes or competing wares.

Fuentebella says Krispy Kreme here follows a common marketing calendar as other countries, but he is keen to have some flexibility to create campaigns specific for Filipinos.

He does not see a reason to slow down on the campaigns and branding activities, saying that it seems to actually good time to create an even stronger foothold in the industry and make the Krispy Kreme brand stand out from the rest.

GOINGS-ON

Review for brokers set

THE URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE (UIRE) scheduled three sections of its Comprehensive Real Estate Seminars (CRES) and reviews on Makati and Quezon City, as follows:

The Saturday afternoon section will be held on June 27, July 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 1:30-7:00 p.m., with special rates on Sept. 5 at Max's Restaurant, near the exit of Ortigas 2. Makati City.

The Monday afternoon section will be on June 29, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 with special reviews on Sept. 7, at the same time and venue.

The Thursday afternoon section will be held at Max's Restaurant in Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, on July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 with special review on Sept. 10 with the same time slot, 1:30 to 7:00 p.m.

For other details or advance registration, Dr. Mario Castillo may be reached at 0448881891 or 7268815, or 09104259174 or 09216600457 or by e-mail at whenit@pacific.net.ph and whenit.ph@gmail.com.

Seminar on fashion jewelry on

LEARN HOW to make jewelry and explore the craft of bead-making during the one-day seminar to be conducted by Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program on June 27, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City.

Participants will be taught the easy way to string beads and be coached on tips and techniques from wire bracelets, earrings, necklaces, anklets and other accessories using beige wood materials.

For questions, call 421-1577, 4367406, 4337801 and 9438563 or e-mail same Golden Treasure@hotmail.com.

German firm names distributor

SENNHEISER, the world's leading manufacturer of microphones, headphones and wireless transmission systems, has appointed Macro Image Ventures Corp. as the new official distributor for Sennheiser's range of broadcast microphones in the Philippines.

As part of its expansion plans in Asia, Sennheiser has identified the Philippines as a key market for its Evolution range of microphones.

In conjunction with the appointment of Macro Image as an official Audio Series Sennheiser and Macro Image also unveiled their first concept showroom in the Philippines.

The Sennheiser showroom features a comprehensive range of Sennheiser products, ranging from microphones, wireless systems, consumer headphones, accessories as well as Sennheiser branded merchandise.

The Sennheiser showroom is located at GF Gonzalo Terrazas, 19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan.

BUSINESS

Wealth from worms

By Brenda M. Dedidan

THE CHINESE CHARACTER FOR earthworm translates as "organ of the earth."

Cleopatra saw their value and declared them "sacred." Aristotle called them the "intestines of the soil."

Charles Darwin made this telling statement: "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly, organized creatures."

COMMENTARY

But as this year of economic and environmental crisis, the most relevant contribution of the worms is as a wealth, both in terms of providing us cash and restoring our ecological balance.

True story

Antonio de Castro tells about his own experience in vermiculture and vermicomposting.

In 2001, he read an article on these subjects by Dr. Rafael Guerrero, then executive director of the Philippine Council on Aquatic and Marine Research Development (PCAMRD).

Dr. Castro states, "Within two years of receiving the approximately 1 kilo of earthworms from Dr. Guerrero, we were raising a 2-hectare farm using only vermicast that we produced intensive using dynamic, nutrient, acrida, cumbo manure and sometimes chicken dung. The effectiveness was demonstrated in the results of the vegetables we were growing—all organic."

He adds: "There was also very little disease or infestation on our plants. This we attributed to the plants being healthy enough to have developed very good resistance to pests and diseases."

In an AgriBuk Site in 2005, Dr. Castro found out that the vegetable supplier of SM Supermarket had the problem of disposing of 3 to 5 tons of vegetable waste a week. Dr. Castro made an agreement to collect her biodegradable waste for free. This relieved her of the expense of her garbage being picked up and her neighbors complaining of the odor.

Infamously, Dr. Castro mentioned this vegetable waste into wealth through his vermiculture technology in individuals and groups into solid waste management, as well as to small farmers who want to convert from chemical-based fertilizers to more natural and organic methods.

This technology has even reached the inmates of the Tarlac City Jail in Cebu, which put together a presentation on vermiculture called "A Livelihood Project for the Inmates, must" (http://www.bjmp.gov.ph).

Profitability

On a larger scale, how profitable is the vermiculture business? Philip Cruz states that soco can get to work in a 200-percent return on six two-month vermicompost cycles. Below is the breakdown of this profitability.

It is said that teaching a person to fish is better than giving him or her a fish. In many instances, it is better to teach vermiculture to produce organic fertilizer than to give chemical fertilizer subsidies that may damage the environment and even result in more fertilizer scams.

Last June 14, I talked to Jorge Manchola, a very successful agri-businessman who now spends his retirement years helping small farmers. He said that even Hapsican, a well-known pesticide company, is now vermiculture.

Truly there is monetary wealth to be derived from worms. And environmental enhancement because, which is specially important today as we face the dual challenge of global warming and a financial crisis.

Montinola says that if he were to choose the project that would have the best return on investment (ROI) for many small farmers, it would be vermiculture. Maybe he shares the same insight into the wealth from worms as the Chinese, Cleopatra, Aristotle and Darwin.

As the Department of Agriculture (DA) officials submit their 2010 budget proposal until June 25, we hope that they, too, share the same wisdom, complete a vermiculture master plan for the country and ask for the corresponding budget to support it.

For the rest of us, we can learn and do more regarding this subject by visiting the website http://www.vermophilip-pines.com, and possibly calling PCAMRD (049) 536-0190 and/or Antonio de Castro (0918) 9385726).

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchph@yahoo.com or cmjay (02) 8122112.)

Profit per 2-month cycle

Item	Estimated
Total Sales	P112,000
Total Expenses	56,400
Total Profit	55.4%
Total Annual Profit (6 cycles)	P335,674
ROI is a Productive Cycle/Year	599%

RP downgrade seen

By Michelle V. Ramos

THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE Philippines' credit ratings will be downgraded this year, according to ING.

ING explains that the possibility is there because of the likely increase in the budget deficit this year, brought about by ramped up spending to ward off a recession.

"We think there will be further upward revisions in the deficit target and that the likelihood of a negative rating action has gone up," ING said in a paper on its assessment of the Philippines and other Asian economies.

The investment bank said it did not believe the government could make do with a target budget deficit of P250 billion for 2009.

Economic managers first set a deficit target of P177.2 billion, but it was later increased to P309.2 billion and then again to P295 billion.

ING said an increase in the deficit ceiling puts pressure on credit agencies to downgrade ratings.

Credit ratings are adjusted depending on the perceived ability of a country to manage its debts.

The Philippines currently has P4 trillion in outstanding debt.

According to the International Monetary Fund, debt beyond 2.5 percent of a country's gross domestic product could hamper investor confidence and lead to rising downgrades.

The government's fiscal deficit ceiling of P250 billion is equivalent to 3.2 percent of the projected GDP.

Currently, the Philippines' credit ratings with major international credit rating agencies—Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings—are below investment grade.

A further cut in the ratings would, therefore, increase the interest rates paid by the government and Filipino firms every time they borrow from abroad because of the risk factor.

PNOC taps Japanese know-how

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL Co. (PNOC) has tapped Japanese technology to jump-start the development of its wind energy projects, following the signing of an agreement with the Tokyo-based consortium of Mitsubishi Corporation (MHI), Mitsubishi Heavy Ind., Philippine Shipyard and Construction (PNS Corporation) and Iloilo Engineering.

Under the agreement, PNOC will share with the MHI-led energy consortium technical, financial and environmental studies and information related to the country's wind energy program.

The consortium, on the other hand, will lend its expertise in the development of wind energy projects.

According to PNOC, it was looking to use the Spiral Magnus Wind Turbine, the latest in wind technology, which uses diverging propeller-type blades instead, to vane cylinder-shaped blades with spirally arranged fins attached around the cylinder.

"The result is a wind turbine that achieves higher efficiencies in lower wind speeds than traditional wind turbines because rotational speed is about one-sixth of aerodynamic propeller types, those turbines are relatively quiet and typhoon resistant," PNOC explained.

PNOC disclosed that senior officials of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) were studying the possibility of financing the government's wind projects.

"We are excited to sign this cooperation with the group of MHI Energy which is one of the world's leading renewable energy work for us and for our country using the latest wind turbine technology," said PNOC president Jeremias M. Calibo.

EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 30, 2009

CHEVROLET

Get one with ₱75K* low down.

Free LTO Registration • Free 1-year Insurance
Free PMS** (parts and labor) up to 20,000 kms
Free Tint, Seat Cover and Floor Mats

Chevrolet Spark. Discount and free PMS** (parts and labor) up to 20,000 kms for cash purchase.

www.chevrolet.com.ph

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors Angelo Montebon-Guillermo, Jenni Eppersson and Ria Francisca-Perera

Fashion saw interesting times at CCP

WHEN RAJO LAUREL, Rhett Eala and Randy Ortiz present their holiday couture collections in Inocencio Lifestyle's "Face Off" this Tuesday, June 23, at Cultural Center of the Philippines, it won't be the first time that this venerable culture institution opens its doors to Philippine fashion design.

For nonetheless, this fashion event with Samsung significantly follows a series of interesting fashion milestones that took place, though very rarely, at CCP through the decades.

First, since Ramon Valera became the first Filipino fashion designer to receive the National Artist Award two years ago, there simply has been no turning back for fashion design to rightfully take its place in Philippine culture and the arts. By naming Valera National Artist, the august body behind the awards recognized fashion design as a field in the category of architecture, design and applied arts.

Second, in a more distant past, in the '70s during the Marcos regime to be exact, CCP and its neighboring Folk Arts Theater became grand venues for fashion shows—instead fashion extravaganzas—conceived and mounted by then First Lady Imelda Marcos to put the Philippines in the world glamour map; and to be fair to her, to showcase the talent of Filipino couturiers.

Ms Marcos' "Singang Ampo" fashion productions have become part and parcel of the country's fashion history and form precious memories of the designers who were selected (one was asked, one didn't volunteer) to join.

Auggie Cordero remembers it was in 1974 when "Singang Ampo" was held at the CCP Main Theater to show off Philippine fashion before the delegates of the World Bank/IMF Conference. Huge multistory ramps were constructed for the Main Theater spectacle, where 300 models paraded up and down to the strains of a full orchestra.

The highlight of "Singang Ampo" at CCP were the collections of Pitoy Moreno, Ernest Santiago, Bernard Tarrayo, Pearly Lopez, Lenny Silva and Cardero. Each presented a 30-piece day-to-evening collection, after which 40 other designers paraded their clothes. The giant production was directed by Gaby Florca, the legendary fashion choreographer of the '70s. ("Singang Ampo" at Folk Arts Theater

PLEASE SEE PAGE 5

Fashion saw interesting times at CCP

From page C1

sound) have never been bigger nor, I

Cordero remembers how the entire cast started rehearsing at CCP at 4 p.m., then went for a Manong to some and continues the rehearsal at night, and very late the wee hours. Nobody would dare leave CCP premises or even the streets to go home at night...there was the evening curfew. As some CCP personnel Mayor Ambet would watch rehearsals—he was a ballet dancer then with the CCP ensemble of Alice Reyes, and thus participated in those fashion/culture extravaganzas...the cast felt like a VIP with the "privilege" of being escorted by the "big mayor." (The equivalent of the PNP in the Marcos era) to and from the rehearsal site. As Cordero notes kindly, " Onie's attendance was most and academic."

"Face Off" director Jimbo Aquino, who's celebrating his fifth year in the industry with the June 23 production, drafted me as member he got from Heaven' circle. Aquino wasn't even a fashion acolyte then; he was just a young comedor looking in "fancy dwelled to take time off and fly to Boracay; yes, even then, his group had discovered Boracay. And he was in the thick of preparations for "Bagong Anyo." He was there, lolling on the Boracay sand, when suddenly, up, overhead, he saw a Marcos-era chopper hovering, flying to Boracay....and urging "Gary Pascual" to reach for a grand vacancies in the thick of rehearsals."

In short, Ms Marcos was due lunch-in—to put it mildly she would help throw the rehearsals, it is said, seated in the Malo Theater, microphone in hand, picking out what clothes were in or out of the show. So, she had strong fashion opinions.

"BAGONG Anyo" was first staged in 1972 to showcase Philippine fabrics and Filipino creativity

A PROJECT of Imelda Marcos, "Bagong Anyo" was a showcase of top designers, fashion models and beauty queens.

"She called me to her side," Cordero recalls, "to tell me why dresses isn't good on the Filipina diki, as I shouldn't use brown, like (actress) Snooky just doesn't suit the Filipina, and that the color disappears onstage."

Brown, therefore, was fashion Siberia.

Those were the days.

"FACE OFF" will test the performance of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, presented with flattering, the CCP and the support of HSBC and Via Mercurio.

Sneak peek at 'Face Off'

RAJO LAUREL, ROBIT VALA, AND RANDY ORTIZ will "Face Off" on June 23, Tuesday at Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Lobby.

Each designer will present a collection of about 20 ensembles, which best reflect the creations of their design, and which will give the audience a comprehensive overview of the collections of the three designers.

Successor Lifestyle's "Face Off" is presented by Samsung, with the CCP and also with HSBC and Via Mercurio. The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, to be conducted by Agripino Diaz, will play a repertoire of original Filipino music—like "Sanangguka ni Pepe," "Kundiman ng Puso"—to accompany the collections.

Laurel's collection is inspired by dance. Kids is capitalizing on photos. Orbit experiments with embroidery.

Ubiquitous locally, Rajo Laurel is going global

By Cherbo V Morel

He has hired an international PR; the aim is to launch the brand at New York Fashion Week

"AT THE BALLET" MAY BE THE theme for Rajo Laurel's collection for his catwalk duel at the Cultural Center of the Philippines next week, but contrary to the high brow image of the dance and the venue itself, the clothes will be their exact antithesis.

And if the critics end up not liking what they see, well, none the designer is not lose sleep over it for long.

Laurel will show alongside his contemporaries, Robert Vala and Randy Ortiz, in the Lexmoto Lifestyle and Samsung Style "Face Off" fashion show at the CCP on June 23, an effort to elevate the craft of fashion by pitting designers against each other.

"At the Ballet" is Laurel's most collection for his nearly 10-year business, House of Laurel. Consisting mostly of separates made of delicate fabrics and a soft palette referencing ballerinas, the designer says he felt it was "appropriate to do it this way as an antithesis to the image of CCP—formality and rigidity I want to show that you can enjoy culture even in this RTW context."

BALLET STUDIES. More inspirations for "At the Ballet"

Recognizable brand

Rajo Laurel the brand is easily one of the most recognizable and most successful in the industry (building the name has been the result of a methodical and unique setup that involves not just the designer but his entire family).

Laurel describes it as "very Filipina," with the name holding the purse strings.

Ten years ago, Laurel, the eldest of four children, asked his sister to help him as corporations of his then already growing business. Melanie Laurel-Ocampo quit her job and took on the post of general manager. Their mother, Virginia, eventually came on board to handle the finances.

Penny soon, it was a family affair, with sister Gela and brother John and sister-in-law Esmeralda also joining the enterprise.

From a modern designer who made his debut in local fashion 16 years ago, following his studies in New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, and later at London's Central St. Martins, Laurel has grown his business to include uniform manufacturing and an RTW boutique, which also has lines for men (Rajo Man), maternity (M and Him (Hunky).

"It's easy branching as a family if you know the boundaries," says Laurel. However, "there is collaborative, but sometimes, going could arise on my own. I had to pursue the dream that I would reach. We go by the same lines of the dream."

Says her brother: "I owe it to them. I'm just the number four. Creativity can only go so far if there's no proper foundation."

"EVERYTHING is beautiful at the ballet," says star designer Aliwan, his second based on the CCP show; top, a sample piece from the collection

Niche market

Laurel caters to a niche market, well-loved by high society and celebrities alike. He's quite popular among young society brides. Lately, he's attempted to broaden his range with collaborations with store department creators like Bed Ribbon for wedding shoes and a pocket collection for Prints & Prints.

He's also made his foray into television, as judge for the reality show "Project Runway Philippines."

But he's not stopping there. Laurel reveals he's going global, with plans now underway to expand his brand regionally and from North America. He has hired an international PR, and the store is to launch his brand at New York Fashion Week.

"Nothing is cast in stone," says Laurel. "It's very daunting. I hope those who read this will include it in their prayers."

"Rajo always has it right on the first try," says friend and client Anna Cayco. The two met years ago when she was maid of honor for Laurel's first bride. Cayco recalls she only had one fitting ("I don't like to fit a million times") and got to see the dress only on the wedding day. It fit perfectly.

She was even asked to pose for a glossy shoot wearing that same dress, which ultimately found its way to her sister' closets.

"He's never late, and he always gets exactly what I want. He's also experimental. He'll adapt," Cayco adds. "He doesn't impose, even as he has his own opinions...He's stronger with his opinions now."

Laurel is one of the most hardworking designers in the industry, an outward workaholic who takes pride in having kept his longtime clients, frangoon, however, seem corollary to success.

Good marketing

Whispers have repeatedly dismissed Laurel's popularity as a mere product of good marketing and PR, ultimately undermining his talent. But his friends are quick to his defense.

"Georgia Armani and Ralph Lauren are very good at marketing guys but that doesn't mean they're not talented," says Cayco. "Honestly, it's a talent to know who your market is and how to work with that market. If he's got good PR, I can't say that's a bad thing. If you're looking for someone with connections like Hungkela, he's not a Hungkela, that's for sure... Yves Saint is an example of a marketing genius. I guess that's what Rajo's doing very well."

The magazine front is bad news, but he's not likely to linger on it for long, she says. "He's a happy guy, he's likely to put negative spin on it. He doesn't get depressed for long."

Laurel admits he took hard the negative reviews to his 2001 show; he felt the critics "didn't realize where I was coming from."

"He was very sad over that," Cayco says. "But that made him stronger. He's more mature now."

As you get older, you tend to channel the negative energy into something good," says Laurel. "You learn from it and become a better individual, not just as a designer."

ALL IN THE FAMILY. The designer (center) with (from bottom left) sister Gela Laurel-Sindicuse, mom Virginia Teresa Laurel, brother John and sister Veronica Laurel-Hermano

RAJO Laurel (center) in the new Eastwood Mall with the Payatas women under the Bags2Riches business enterprise. The women make the Eastwood Mall Enviro-Chic bags, which are specially-designed metallized tote bags.

THREE Eastwood Mall Enviro-Chic bags by Rajo Laurel on display for silent bidding

'Green' bag is fashionable reinvention

By Annelle S. Tayao
Contributor

DO YOUR PART FOR MOTHER NATURE BY choosing a new (eco-friendly) fashion accessory—a bag that helps you look chic and do your bit for a good cause.

Created by designer Rajo Laurel, the Eastwood Mall Enviro-Chic bag is a fashionable reinvention of the reusable tote, manufactured by Payatas women under the Bags2Riches (B2R) business enterprise. Painting together canvas fabric, recovered bamboo and a wooden insignia, Laurel has helped the mothers earn by recycling old rags and by turning them into chic shopping bags.

"[A bag] for four pairs of shoes," said Tessa Prieto-Valdes, host of the bag's launch on June 3 in the Eastwood Mall in Libis.

The event included a limited collection of 500 Enviro-Chic bags, which will be sold at P600 each in a booth at the mall's ground floor. Proceeds of the bags' sales will go to the Payatas women of B2R and the Philippine National Red Cross, Laurel's two "favorite advocacies."

"I'm happy that I'm a conduit of sorts to these two," said Laurel. "The best experience I had with this was when one of the women came up to me and said, 'Alam nyo po, mayroon kami na maaasap sa kanilang mikakakain.'"

A silent auction of three special Enviro-Chic bags was also held at the launch. Matched with the medium (, 80 and the large D respectively, bidding for the bags started at P1,500 each.

Some stamps also had their 15 minutes of fame as they posed with their creations in a fashion show of the bags. An exhibit of photos by embedded photographers telling the story of the Payatas women was also unveiled.

"Eastwood City had a vision to create a life balance for its residents and workers. It achieves [this] we know that it is necessary to have an ecological consciousness component to the community," said Kevin Tee, commercial division head of Megaworld Corporation.

"From that perspective, we looked for a good cause to support. Bags 2 Riches is perfect because it does not just advocate recycling, [it] also empowers the women of Payatas."

So grab a bag and join in the eco- and fashion-friendly trend. You get your money's worth, enrich lives of skilled, hard-working women and add some oomph to your bag collection by owning a Rajo Laurel creation!

FASHION (from far the Eastwood Mall Enviro-Chic bag by Rajo Laurel (center) with Kevin Tee (second from the right) and Tessa Prieto-Valdes (right)

MODEL displays an Eastwood Mall Enviro-Chic bag by Rajo Laurel.

ADD oomph to your bag collection by owning a Rajo Laurel creation.

FEMINOPPE'S new coffee line is hip and stylish.

Chic casuals

STUCK BETWEEN THE BOHEMIAN buzz of adolescence and tailoring of adulthood, what's a young fashionista to do?

Pendleppe offers the perfect style solution. Its latest collection takes casual to the next level. Featuring hints of feminine tailoring with a preppy influence, Pendleppe's mid-year collection of casual wear succeeds in being "young and hip" with "sophisticated and stylish."

Pendleppe's last new collection is "at once effortless and refined, hit casual, relaxed and wearable. It raises its cool palette of fresh yet subdued hues that neither scream for attention nor blend into the wallpaper.

A key inspiration for the collection is schoolboy chic. Guys give a schoolboy chic makeover simply by donning jackets with preppy stripes, as well as knit and woven vests. Instead of being layered under formal suits, vests go casual over tees. Two-for-price combo deals buyers, without the discomfort of removing garments over a collared shirt.

Other schoolboy chic details include tweed prints and cuts—think Gossip Girl heroine Chace Crawford (Nate Archibald) and his school jacket with the aristocratic crest. Argyle patterns evoke another Gossip Girl heartthrob, Ed Westwick (Chuck Bass), whose wardrobe includes a host of argyle vests and sweaters.

Even girls can channel schoolboy chic. Pendleppe helps girls achieve this sexy, layered, stylish look with cozy sets and much layering pieces such as cardigans in preppy stripes and vests.

With the flair for reinventing, Pendleppe makes the past new again with their pro-grunge look. This reworkable line brings the 90s back again with a look that's mature, grown-up and perfect for girls this season.

Neo-grunge key influences are with checks and plaids that are a staple of the grunge look. Pendleppe offers elegance and comfort by veering away from too-tight silhouettes towards volume and ease of movement, with oversized tops and tunics that move with the body. Don a loose top and pair it with distressed pants and a fedora to get the look.

Pendleppe's Swedeish has been a constant hit thanks to the brand's innovations to their denim line. This season, the popular line moves up to sophistication as well. Denim ink Resist features new, tailored fits that retain the edgy, youthful feel that makes the jeans a bestseller and a perfect complement to any Pendleppe outfit.

Check them out now at all Pendleppe boutiques nationwide.

EVEN girls can channel schoolboy chic.

Call:
911-2240
912-9635
STALLICIA Homes
ALSO AVAILABLE

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Visit us at the site Saturday June 20, 2009

LAKE VIEW ANGONO

DEVELOPER
STALLICIA

LANDOWNER
First Aikka Dev't Inc.

ASIAN PACIFIC

Ben Farrales retrospective at Met Museum

By Larry Lavina
Contributor

FASHION DIVAS, HISTORIANS and young students studying the rich, colorful heritage of high fashion enjoyed the Metropolitan Museum's latest show at the Tall Galleries.

White faceless mannequins garbed in couture fabrics featuring cotton and astronomical colors offered a retrospective of Ben Farrales' signature Muslim-inspired styles, including creations by a handful of designers. The exhibit was called "Tanyak Mindanao, Tradisyong at Rich Heritage."

In a time when Islam, Hindu and Muslim influences rule the world of haute couture and world politics, it is significant that we rethink our ideas of Philippinana, which offers aromas of Hispanic colonial styles found in the fiesta's capa, the Maria Clara and its very modern sibling, the butterfly-sleeved terno.

Vibrant garb

"Tanyak Mindanao" dares us to re-examine our nationhood that was largely Muslim until the 16th century. Ancestry of Chinese maidens ornamented that in the 12th century, the Philippine islands were ruled by ethnic and dance who wore richly woven, cinquefoil-gracefully vibrant and color saturated garb like the malong, the kalayo, salawal and the sarong.

One has to look no further than the basement of the Metropolitan Museum to see how our forefathers were intricate and now-lost gold ornaments such as belts, necklaces, armlets and ankle bracelets (treasures of years ago).

Who can forget the story of the island of Bantay being bought with a golden calabao? And who hasn't heard supreme charms and eloquence in the dance called cinglid, complete with the perfectly syncopated clashing of bamboo poles and brass gongs?

It was our own Mang Ben Farrales who became the purveyor of this Muslim style in fashion, not by choice but by design.

"In an unforgettable young man of 12, I scurried away on an Saturnian ship to follow my Aunt Aida, about 15 years my senior, to Catalonia where she became the wife of Sen. Salipada Pendatun," reveals Mang Ben.

"I woke up to the screech and sights of this most exotic culture when I awaked and lived there for a few years, with a Moslyn garbed in the most marvellous woven fabrics that were copied by draped and layered on the body for a perfect fit. The traditions and customs were imprinted on my young mind. The gold jewelry, marbled creatures, inlaid boat and shiny brass gadoc flatares of this wonderful world became my own private and lifelong well of inspiration.

Enduring art

Mang Ben is on his 57th year in the respected dean of Philippine fashion. He is active in many love travels, a devoted Ilko Mike organizer and is never generous when it comes to sharing his talent and advice with many successful designers like Cesar Gunpowd Danny Peters.

Generously patterns and stylized vagueness parents in his creations instill the enduring Islamic art, infused with the ethnic touches of the indigenous Mansaca, Maranao and Bagobo tribes.

Rich embellishment and ornamentation are found on intricate beaded and appliqued formal long gowns and wedding gowns.

Mang Ben Farrales has done away with the limitations of the original costumes, using them instead as springboards to catapult his style into the realm of contemporary yet classic interpretations. To his mind's eye is the exhibition perfection of cutting and (fourette) dressing—authentic for instance, through the clashing colors of turquoise, red and purple in one sarapina long gown with a floral veil that was flown like a kite when it was drawn at the Smithsonian Center in Washington, DC many fashion seasons ago.

Fittingly, this exhibit comes just when there is talk that a National Artist award might just go to a poet of Mang Ben, Dicta Moreno.

Who knows, this staunch propagator of the rich cultural heritage of Mindanao might get the distinction the next time around. Anyone who can be powerful and unforgettable creations at the Met would agree a hundred percent.

Precious Finds from Fashion 21

CLOCKWISE from top: Ben Farrales' signature Muslim-influenced creation, as worn by bridal gown in ombre shades of beaded kaftan-chiffon, royal malong of rich silk brocade, actually a panel and loose pants and a draped malong brilliant tangerine jacket and wrap skirt with multicolored ribbons forming a checkered pattern, inspired by the Maranao tribe of Lanao del Sur

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Contributing Editors:
Jenni L. Epperson
Apples Alberto-Sudhwani
and Ria Francisco-Prieto

The best card to have on Father's Day

P455 by Silvercraft and get the perfect outfitnia for your son

JUNE IS DADDY'S MONTH. HEED the kids' call and take a day off with your trusted Metrobank Credit Card.

Relax, unwind and take some time browsing for the latest must-haves at Mandy's and Brown Specialties, Inc. (SSI) boutiques.

Coinciding with Father's Day is the Italian Festival ongoing until July 22, where the best of Italy is presented to a series of events such as fashion shows, lifestyle workshops, cooking demos and wine tasting.

Conquer the mall from top to bottom, beginning with the exquisitely crafted furniture at the home section of Rustan's and Brown Specialties, Inc. (SSI) boutiques.

Crisscrossing with Father's Day is the Italian Festival ongoing until July 22, where the best of Italy is presented to a series of events such as fashion shows, lifestyle workshops, cooking demos and wine tasting.

Conquer the mall from top to bottom, beginning with the exquisitely crafted furniture at the home section of Rustan's and Brown Specialties, Inc. (SSI) boutiques.

Relax, unwind and take some time browsing for the latest must-haves at Mandy

CHARLIE Jumuad

SASHA Nunez

LALIQUE distributor in the Philippines Ken Jumuad with Members Only room of Louie Yumul, Tim Yap, GP Reyes, Lalique Parfums handler Francois de Gramont and Tempo and Embassy Club's Erik Cua

RAYMOND Quinerva with gorgeous Subic Hooroff and Heart Evangelista

Marilen Moreno look-alike, vivaciously adorable Sonny Gitez

TASTBY Kat Alano

Club marks 1st year with old Hollywood glamor as theme

DAMIEN Bachelor, MC Pardee and Mia Medina

VANDA Fredesmo and Jagdish Gajwani

PENELOPPE'S Albert Ong and Rita Mendoza

BIGFOOT Cebu's Ludwig Bautista, Lia Hutchinson and Samir Jirukawakh

CACAY Maricel Circuit club Isaac

YOUNG designer Karl Sustento and Sarah Ko

KAYE Quesea and Joey Serrao

LEVENSON Rodrigues and Pam de Vera

KATE Paredes, Erika Pineda, Jenny Tramengol and Mia Pineda

Mark Villar, Nicole Whisenhunt, Joe Jaime, Gino Serrano, Francis Reyes and Jet Arcasio

Jenny Tramengol with Elizabeth Aguirre and Chiqui Diaz

HOSTESS with the mostest, honorary consul Nelly Aldana, with Jonathan Cua, Elma Tuangco, BSP president Armando Tuangco Jr., renowned pianist Ingrid Sala Sta. Maria and CPFI president Louie Abaya

LAWYER Pablo Magno, Exito Hernandez and lawyer Monty Villarica

ADMEN Ramos, Rene Bautista and Mira Obordo

ALFONSO Dionisio and Tina Alcala

JOB Borromeo, George DeSanto, Mambo del Rosario, Glen Santiago, Alex Mendoza and Will Go

VICTOR Consunji, Maggie Wilson, Eric Campos, Marivel Dizon and Regina King

LAWYER Arnold Magno, Cynthia Alcala and Lina Enriquez

Without batting an eyelash

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alain Vito Hagon using YBL Prem Soutore

YES, PALAWENAS, TIME RUNS fast. It was only last year when the first-of-its-kind private membership bar and lounge was launched at The Fort, Members Only, a high-end club with limited-ion invitees.

Boasting such pride were Members Only's founders royals like resplendent legend Louie Yumul, businessmen Alejo Dobel, advertising, events, and young PR genius, GP Reyes, Embassy's cool cap-led by dynamic entrepreneur Erik Cua; party man Tim Yap; restaurant chef Bernardo Aracama; and fab entrepreneur Jon Herrera.

This three-fete birthday bash, the club had Mumbai's elite partying while enjoying 42 Belvo, Bombay Sapphire, Smirnoff and Johnnie Walker Gold Reserve, which made their spirits go higher. Old Hollywood-styled glamour was the theme as many members took to heart the iconic era of Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra, perhaps?

After a toast by Tim celebrating the club's anniversary, sweetheart prizes were given out, including awesome 50 bottles of perfume from Lalique Parfums; a crystal decanter, Carafe Thirsting; and a vase, Vase Enchantress from Lalique Crystal, awarded to Nikki Ellis. Ellis's glass head trimet Kerry Gilles won stunningly awarded to a Mont Blanc Meisterstuck, dubbed, The Thirst Hotel as Honorary awarded Vicki Belmo a special birthday stay as well.

It can be said that Members Only is one of the ultimate rewards for those who have arrived, dubbings, from CEOs to young successful entrepreneurs.

For more info on Members Only, call 0917-6189001 or GP Reyes at 0917-6334747. Email gpreyes@gmail.com.

Penehoppe's Stylescape

It wasn't raining jeans, dubbings, but it was a downpour of fashion and style when Penehoppe presented its mid-year collection to Shangrila Mall's Philippine Fashion Week at SM Mall of Asia Main Atrium which was jampacked with our town's fashion followers.

During the event, some hungry social climbers enjoyed the pastries and free drinks from The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf and the yummy Italian gelato from Dolce Gelato, yahoooo.

Debbie BBC, Penehoppe's resident consprey, inspired urban lifestyle, fashion, art and architecture. Talented eye catcher with the four Bs, Godfrey Ramirez and multi-faceted entrepreneur Jay Servoz added glitter to the Penehoppe event.

As the show started, hot-looking Club Bay members emerged from the skyline. Sexy models wore the brand's latest collection, including schoolboy chic ensembles reminiscent of the hit TV show "Gossip Girl." There was the New-grunge collection bringing back the nineties to Boy hill eating, plaids with knee caps, palazzo pa. The show's finale featured handsome shirtless hunks in workingclass dress Cavalcade jeans. Yikes!

No wonder the Hotshots crowd partied on and on. With coffee flowing all night long, palazzo, who would be able to sleep, di ba?

Check out Penehoppe's mid-year collection at all its boutiques nationwide.

Pawnbrokers anniversary

Four gentlemen of all seasons, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Zambia, business magnate Lodi L Ablaza, Jr. and his lovely wife, charity maiden and son of Comm Murillo's mega businesses Honorary Consul of Guatemala lawyer Amelio "Melito" Romero-Abaza, hosted an elegant dinner at their Makati mansion, palazzo. The event celebrated the 32rd anniversary of the Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines Inc. (CPFI), with more than 14,000 awesome members that operate all over the country.

The grand highlight was the induction of this year's elected officers and directors in which Lodi, a its president, also eleven years, as bat, of holding such position.

Super guest of honor was the young and dedicated Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Armando M. Tetangco, who inducted Consul Lim as CPFI president.

The excellent dinner was prepared by talented and creative chef Jessie Sindayen of La Jacolla.

After dinner, the invitees were urbanites the Ablazas' most donors where the CPFI officers and directors took their turns, followed by a fantastic piano concert by world-class Ingrid Sala-Santamaria who played exotic tunes on two grand pianos with Jonathan Cua, dubbings, to the delight of guests.

It was a perfect way to end an evening, palazzo.

La Breza Tower:
Where luxury living is an investment

The word "luxury" seems to turn into a pariah during a financial crunch. But what if your comfortable, classy and private abode also give you the chance to make some money on the side?

Sta. Lucia Land Inc. brings into fruition its first condominium project in Metro Manila. The La Breza Tower (The Breeze) right along Mother Ignacia St. Quezon City is a luxurious development just off EDSA, the main circumferential artery connecting the north and south ends of Metro Manila. La Breza is a classy, quiet and luxurious aerie that is cooled by delicate breezes that easily flow through the gently rolling terrain and wide open spaces of suburban Quezon City.

At the same time, La Breza (which is conveniently walking distance from both Edsa and Quezon Avenue) is at the hub of powerful media conglomerates ABS-CBN and GMA-7, allowing it to bask in the glamour of the worlds of television and cinema, with the enticing sparkle of celebrity. Furthermore, La Breza is close to the Ayala Triangle Mall, and the Quezon Avenue MRT station; as well as being just a stone's throw away from the strip along Timog Maraki Avenue, with its fine dining restaurants, night spots and quiet little watering holes. Medical hospitals, including the Heart and Lung Centers of the Philippines, are a short drive away.

Being close to the hub of media glamour and bustling commercial activity, it makes sense that La Breza combines function rooms (ground and second floors), condotel (third to seventh floors) and condominium units at the 8th to the 22nd floors.

La Breza's impressive amenities are at the 3rd level, with a swimming pool and fitness gym. Available are studio, one-bedroom and 2-bedroom units, all excellent choices for affordable investment and living space.

Comprising 22 storeys of mixed-used development, La Breza combines convenience and comfort in its architecture, designed by W.V. Consultants and Associates. Interiors are well-appointed, designed along modern yet comfortable lines by Sorgoyang & Perrucot.

Developer Sta. Lucia Land, Inc. brings to La Breza the expertise of over 35 years of developing communities, resorts, malls and several high rise condominiums. Projects are located in the key cities nationwide, with proximity to important establishments. Through the years, Sta. Lucia has aimed towards helping families acquire their dream homes, and build better lives.

For inquiries on La Breza Tower, please contact Royale Homes Marketing Corporation, the exclusive marketing network at telephone numbers (+632) 726.4288, 726.4317, 584.1164 or log on to www.royalehomes.ph

LA BREZA TOWER
MOTHER IGNACIA QUEZON CITY

Live and earn well right in the heart of Quezon City

CONDOTEL
&
CONDOMINIUM UNITS
AVAILABLE

For as low as 30% downpayment payable in 3 years.
NO INTEREST.

- 22-storeys of investment and living space
- Walking distance to EDSA and MRT station
- Adjacent to shopping malls, schools, hospitals and entertainment hubs

For inquiries:
(02) 726 4288, 726 4317, 584 1164

STA. LUCIA LAND INC. | ROYALE HOMES MARKETING CORPORATION

www.labrezatower.com

Brokers and Marketing Managers are welcome.

Even the best designers in the world borrow ideas from other artists and from previous collections

Catwalk vs sidewalk

Mabuhay!

Jenn J. Esperon

THIS SEASON, QUITE A number of collections can spark a fashionista's sense of fun and creative whimsy. Get inspired by some of the best spring pieces from the runway catchers roaming on your photos.

Create the same high style from the catwalk in a less-budget "sidewalk" look with affordable pieces from the Ramp Crossings, and by layering and using bold accessories for a more personalized look.

E-mail the author at jjesperon@inquirer.com.ph

BIG SOUND 04:24 THE M'S
NEAT LITTLE PACKAGE 03:06 STEVIE CEE
CRY FOR MERCY 06:18 BIG STUF
IN YOUR EARS 04:00 DOUBLE E

NOKIA
Connecting People

Nokia 5800 XpressMusic
Play. Share. Touch.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

RACKS

Pampering the men in their lives on Father's Day

Wives dish on what to give their doting husbands

THE SIMPLEST THINGS DO bring a lot of joy. Paolo is a good father. He makes everything special for me and our child. In fact, every morning, watching Paolo interact with our son, Benito, reminds me how blessed I am to have three exceptional fathers in my life—my father Lito, my father-in-law Alex, and Paolo, the father of my son.

KNOCKOUT!

Rita Francisco-Prieto

Here are other women unifying to the quiet greatness of their husbands as fathers—and how they plan to pamper them on this special day.

Margot Garcia

Rene is a great dad because time with his kids is always "quality time." His hugs are abundant and he never fails to tell the kids he loves them.

With regard to shirt purchases, Rene is really not the type to buy. The most he would put on his face is moisturizer. His favorite cologne is Royale Anthem.

Romina Gonzalez

Mouche was meant to be a dad. Carmen adores him as much as he adores her. With those same round brown eyes, perfect lips and furry eyebrows, they are perfect babies of each other. I love how she climbs all over him. They swim for endless hours and make each other laugh out loud. I relish when I catch both of them in deep conversation alone even the silliest things, and when Carmen runs full throttle every time she sees him walk through the door. I love how I could leave Carmen even in an inferno, with him all day, and come home to chow fun asleep. Most of all, I am grateful that I am married to a man who is so present in my daughter's life, pulling Carmen and me, "the girls," above all else.

Mouche marvels about many things, so I want him to forget all the stress and spend the day in home getting a hair treatment, foot spa and full body massage from Massage If Yes.

BLUE HARBOUR
Harrington Jacket - P4990
Classic Polo - P1250
Flat Front Comfort Chino - P1650
21
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
DAD
MARKS & SPENCER

How to create flawless makeup on your wedding day

JOEL QUINTAS
Primera

A WEDDING IS THE MOST important day to a woman's life, so looking stunning on that day certainly makes it even more memorable.

Another there that's just as important is the right skin care. No-effience skin hydration plan is important because the unremarkable areas of all those months getting ready for the event may reflect on your face.

Isabel Bacos,
Backstage Pro

Prepping yourself doesn't start and end on the big day. Don't be complacent, even if your skin is in good condition. Program weekly facials to get all the impurities out, and drink five glasses of water every day, immediately after waking up (in addition to the eight glasses suggested daily).

With the skin primed, make-up is ready to be applied. Opt for subtle makeup that enhances your best features and makes you naturally radiant.

For the finer details, I asked bridal makeup expert Joss Quintas-Primera, Abs licensed-accredited makeup artist, for tips and techniques:

VALENE Barino

● Apply lip treatment that smoothens lips and gently exfoliates to prevent flakiness.

● Use nourishing cream with emollient system to strengthen the skin's barrier function and prevent dehydration all day long. Your skin will be more even-looking with luminous finish.

● Use products that protect skin from the sun's rays.

● Months before your wedding, experiment with a make-up palette that is perfect for your complexion. That way, you'll avoid any potential reactions to new products.

● Test drive your makeup at least two weeks before your wedding. Give your husband makeup a few minutes to set, then take your face with water from a spray bottle. The spray will immediately react and give you an idea of how your makeup will hold up in a good way.

● Keep makeup on at least half a day, and see how you look after a few hours. If you're still perfect with just a few minor touch-ups, then you definitely have a winning routine.

Three questions for Cathy Canseco-Dizon, makeup assistant for Sha Ilamura

How do you ensure makeup lasts all day?

● To ensure that makeup will last all day, I always put on a foundation primer before applying the foundation and concealer. It prevents makeup from getting oakey throughout the day. Also, for my bridal clients, I always use airbrush makeup. This keeps the foundation flawless all day.

How do you get a lube tan without looking orange?

● If a client wants to make her skin tone warmer, I apply bronzer or loose powder shimmer in gold, bronze and copper tones to highlight the shoulder and collar bones, arms and legs. I also apply lotion with shimmer or body oil with micro glow.

What if you get a big spot on your wedding day morning?

● Don't worry if you get a big spot on your wedding day. Since it's too late to go to the dermo, a little concealer can go a long, long way. Don't touch the spot because it might get worse. But don't fret, a well-applied spot concealer will definitely hide the spot.

Finally, for an opinion from the other side of the fence, I asked price and commercial model and soon-to-be bride Valerie Barino to share more tips on how to prepare one's skin for the big day.

"As a model, I've learned that it's important to have your eyebrows done by a professional, and that it's important to remove excess hair on the upper lip through threading. Have your eyebrows extracted one day before your wedding and dough well, even a few hours before does mend if you can. Nothing helps your skin more than relaxation and sleep. On the morning of the big day, make sure your skin is well-moisturized. Before applying foundation, apply a makeup 'primer' to form a barrier between your skin and makeup. This hinders industry with keeps makeup out of your pores, allowing it to stay on longer while keeping colors true for hours."

CATHY Canseco-Dizon

Pampering the men in their lives on Father's Day

From page 01

Vicki de Leon

Cebu is a good father to Enzo because he spends quality one-on-one time with him. He stimulates his imagination by making videos with him; enhances his mind with music appreciation; and improves his motor skills by teaching him how to build Legos and maneuver the Playstation joystick and steering wheel... not so easy feat!

Most of all, I know Enzo is always in his heart and thoughts. For Father's Day, I would like to give him Clinique Skin Supplies for Men Face Scrub and Hi-Hydro Aloe Gel to make his face even more kissable!

Dimples La'O

Cookie is a great Dad. From the day the kids were born, he has been tweeting—changing diapers, night feeding, even potty training! More than Jennylyn is 7, they spend a lot of time playing sports, something they both enjoy. I guess it's really about him being involved with everything in their lives.

If there was one thing I'd get Cookie for Father's Day, it would be a Tea Tree Dry Scalp Shampoo. You could find it in Bangkok before, but not anymore. Also, a really good non-oily SPF 50 sunblock spray for his face, since he's a professional golfer and is always under the sun.

Judith Berenguer-Testa

Joseph is a great Dad because of the unconditional love and encouragement he provides Jacinto. He makes sure to spend lots of quality time with him. They love swimming and the outdoors, which is why he appreciates UMV Armada Sport 7.0.

Tina Cruz

Robert is such a selfless person. He always puts everybody's needs above his own. He finds happiness in making other people happy. I would give him UMV Hypoallergenic shaving cream and razor. I would stick to what I know works best for his sensitive skin.

L'ORÉAL Philippines Finance and Accounting Division general manager Liza Manzanillera, HR general manager Tina Ampil, Marquee, Daniel Charlton of Daniel's Salon, Professional Products Division general manager Brian Timmons, Ms Reyes of Reyes Haircutters and corporate communications manager Tessa Dragon

On its 100th year, 100 citizen projects around the world

MARQUET and Co hand over the banner to the Bigay Buhay Daan beneficiary

In the Philippines, L'Oréal's first project is called 'Bigay Daan'

By Ronna Capili
Contributor

TALKING ABOUT BEAUTY EVOLution and innovation without trust, tested and irreplaceable products such as Stephen's Green Lash mascara, Alu Domus's Cleansing Oil, or the Kérastase Professionnel Elseve hairspray is unimaginable.

Kérastase, the world's largest beauty company that has brought these and other remarkable products to customers all over the world, proudly celebrates its centenary this June and remembers its vision of "making beauty accessible to as many people as possible, the world over."

From its humble beginnings in 1907, with a young pharmacist's assistant in Paris, Eugène Schueller, producing the first synthetic hair-dye Dialaine, the company now carries 23 global brands to 65 countries, with 67,500 employees.

Citizen projects

Kérastase was officially founded in 1909 with Schueller as its first CEO. This year, instead of opting to do a grand and lavavious bash, the company launched 100 citizen projects around the world designed to help members of local communities create jobs in the beauty industry.

"Our centenary is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to our vision and our values—a robust scientific approach, a resonant quest for innovation, a taste for real challenge, respect for diversity, a deep-rooted belief in the valuable role that beauty plays in society," says Kérastase CEO Arnaud Apoux.

In the Philippines, the project is entitled "Bigay Daan." Thirty women from a community in Pasig will undergo a three-month seminar that will equip them with professional skills in hairdressing, makeup artistry, personality development, and planning and budgeting, through Kérastase's partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

Their trainers include Kérastase Professionnel's artistic ambassadors Angelo Palomo II and Wesley Pe of Angelo Palomo Hair Salon Professionals, Karina Manrubia of Regine's Salon, Jhevy Kristallon of Emphasis Salon, the Joannes of Justine Bitchara Salon, Chrissy Calderon of Hairworks Salon, Melly Mateo of Hairterra, Kérastase product expert Irma Manrique and Yves Palmes and Kérastase demi makeup artist Jigo Mayuga. The seminars will be conducted at the Kérastase Philippines headquarters.

The women will also be provided with starter kits containing the beauty products they need to start their own careers. The beauty, so to speak, of "Bigay Daan" is the opportunity for employment offered by such establishments as David's Salon, Reyes Haircutters and Isabel Salon.

Kérastase's corporate communications manager Tessa Dragon says this is just the first batch of trainees; the project will eventually reach other local communities around Metro Manila.

Other citizen projects of Kérastase include education for underprivileged children in Brazil, support for ailing individuals or those with special needs in Singapore, and for young Iceland residents who want to gain proper livelihood in Korea, to name a few.

Global market

Kérastase aims to conquer a bigger slice of the worldwide market by being available in more countries.

"We are really looking forward to the next hundred years," says Luc Olivier Marquet, Kérastase Philippines managing director. "We've barely scratched the surface. Only 1/3 of the world's population has access to our products. There are many, many new markets to conquer, and the Philippines is part of our top 20—only for the next 20 years, as well as new territories such as the Middle East and Africa."

"We have a big opportunity to give them access to real beauty, real cosmetic products, and real quality at real affordable prices," he adds.

He also says new categories such as men's skincare and green cosmetics are in the offing.

"It's true that when we look back at these hundred years, the products we've launched and the number of technologies we've invented are quite amazing. But if you look at last year where we had 628 patents, that means we're going to see these patents for the next 10 years."

Marquet leaves the next hundred years with an eager spirit, a curious nature and quite a good number of patents—the best way to embrace turning a century old.

L/C Olivier Marquet, L'Oréal Philippines managing director, and Vicky Co of Philippine Business for Social Progress

Latest Breakthrough in Skin Care Introduces Anti-Aging from Within

By Ruby de Vera

As the world's leader in anti-aging technology, Nu Skin Enterprises continues to come up with the latest in product innovation. Scientific research methods combined with experts from the fields of dermatology, ethnobotany, and nutritional and cosmetic sciences never fail to bring on the best in skin care technology.

Joseph Chang is Nu Skin Enterprises Chief Scientific Officer and Executive Vice President for Product Development. He has recently visited Manila for a lecture and demonstration on Nu Skin's latest breakthrough, the ageLOC™ technology.

We are all familiar on what contributes to skin aging, mainly environmental factors such as pollution, sunlight, and stress. Dr. Chang explains that what we don't really know is that the skin also ages without these factors. They accelerate skin aging, but all of us possess a certain enzyme that begins to appear when people reach a certain age.

During research, they discovered a previously unknown enzyme called Age that was found to be very active in aging skin. An internal source of aging, Age is capable of generating free radicals in the skin all the time. In test groups, people who have very low amounts of the enzyme look an average of 7 years younger, and people who have it higher in them look 7 years older. Suddenly, putting sun block on isn't enough to prevent premature lines, wrinkles, sagging skin, discoloration and hyper pigmentation.

This is where ageLOC™ comes in, as it blocks the enzyme from being active and fearless it from the body. However, as the enzyme is being produced around the clock, thinking it is not a one-time deal. During testing, there was a remarkable improvement in the lines and wrinkles of those who used it properly. It took more than 5 years of research and development for Nu Skin to perfect ageLOC™.

Ideally, the ageLOC™ product should be used everyday, and twice a week with their Galvanic Spa Treatment. Nu Skin has incorporated the technology into some of their existing products, and can be used with or without the Galvanic Spa System, their best-selling product. The Galvanic Spa System is a handheld device that uses galvanic currents combined with specially charged treatment gels to remove impurities from the skin and maximize the benefits of skin care products.

"There are no side effects in using ageLOC™ products, because the enzyme is only produced by unhealthy skin," Dr. Chang says about the wonders of their latest breakthrough. "We all need help, but the best prevention should come from yourself", adds Dr. Chang. Avoiding direct sunlight, the right diet, and other preventive measures for the skin will go a long way.

Nu Skin has always adhered to the motto "beauty from the outside, beauty from the inside." In covering all bases, aside from the skin care line, the Pharmanex arm of Nu Skin has the nutritionals, solutions, and weight management products that provide the right nutrition to complement it.

For inquiries, contact Nu Skin Enterprises Philippines, Inc. at 632 0333, or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.

Nu Skin promotes beauty inside and outside

JOSEPH CHANG, Chief Scientific Officer and Executive Vice President for Product Development

Panasonic
ideas for life

VIERA

Viera Infinite Black.
See what's hiding in the dark.

NEW PLASMA TELEVISION

P50S10
P42S10

- Full HD Plasma TV
- 600 Hz Sub-Field Drive Moving Picture Resolution: 1080 Lines
- 2,000,000:1 Dynamic Contrast | Native 20,000:1
- VIERA Link HDMI x3
- SD Card Slot

P50C10
P42C10

- HD Plasma TV
- 600 Hz Sub-Field Drive
- 2,000,000:1 Dynamic Contrast | Native 10,000:1
- VIERA Link HDMI x2
- SD Card Slot

LONG-LIFE PANEL

Panasonic Philippines
(Division of Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation)

Guarantee! | your warranty on parts and services is Authorized Dealers only.

www.panasonic.com.ph
www.panasonic.net/avc/viera
www.panasonic.asia/ecorideas

Solutions to common manicure woes

Give your nails a break and go lacquer-free for a few weeks

I RECENTLY DISCOVERED the perfect blue-black shade (Sally Hansen Insta-Dri in 23 Blazing Blue) that is neither too sparkly nor overly severe.

But in my excitement to run-drive the rich gleaming lacquer, I chipped the important base coat and my nails simply turned a deathly shade of purple upon polish removal.

This got me thinking about common manicure dilemmas, and how to address them.

1. "My nails are stained from using dark polish."

SOLUTION: If someone won't mark my "manicuming" to your natural hue with the help of a gradient color strategy involving the application of various nail varnish shades decreasing in color intensity.

For example, after removing the blue-black, apply a bright fuchsia. Remover, then paint on a rosy mauve, pale pink for example, until you reach your favorite ballet slipper shade.

Mariel Chua, beauty writer on the big apple

You can do this to a span of a day or a week, depending on how much time you have (say, if you have a job interview ahead).

2. "I chipped a nail and I don't want to wear fake ones."

SOLUTION: If the chip is still attached to the rest of the nail, use a drop of a strong-hold glue to bridge the gap. Once glue dries, file the surface until smooth and apply a base coat to seal. This helps buy you time until the nail grows.

If it's too late for D.I.Y. bonding, your only option is better than extending the rest of your nails to clear is to drop by a salon that does acrylic or full-cover tips.

3. "My nails are yellow from all the polish."

SOLUTION: It's time to give your nails a break and go lacquer-free for a few weeks. Use a slice of lemon or cotton ball to massage the nailbed and naturally lift stains. If you can't afford to go back for acquired manners, apply a purple or mauve-based base. It neutralizes the sallow tinge.

Polishing tips

- Store bottles in the refrigerator; it helps keep the varnish fresh.
- To dry newly-coated nails faster, dip them in icy water.
- Keep lacquer away from heat and direct light; the bottles can burst.
- Preserve and refresh a professional manicure by applying a shiny top coat.
- Always start with a base coat especially when using dark nail polish.

Mariel Chua is the former beauty editor of Cosmopolitan Philippines and the Magazine Philippines. Visit her blog at http://lipglossandbase.com

Flawless beauty clinic offers expert and value-oriented service at a reasonable cost, provides complete aesthetic care, non-invasive services for flawless protocols, as well as dermatological tailored procedures performed by a qualified team of doctors and the best trained aesthetician. The clinic's skincare products include facial wash, collagen soap, toner, face powder, acne lotion, astringent, acne solution, SAD soap, whitening toner, lightening soap, skin lightening lotion with sunblock, skin protector lotion, Skincare lotion, whitening deodorant, day and night cream and facial toner.

Affordable products for flawless skin

Vanity Basket

Lightening soap

Glutathion lightening soap and enhanced lightathione glutathion makes skin lighter and smoother naturally. Available at Mercury Drug and Watsons.

Special treat for dads

Face & Figure Center Manila offers two hours of facial and body treatment for dads on his special day. Clients of Face & Figure Center can avail of experts referred by or raging their fathers or husbands to the clinic for treatment, which will entitle both of them to 50 percent off the regular costs of packages or one-time services. The promo is good for the entire month of June. Other services include facials, oxygen detox pool, diamond microderma, chemical peeling, pimple treatment, pimple extraction, acne surgery, skin micro-needling, needle free mesolift, melasma removal, osseo/reiki/chi supplementation, correction of musculoskeletal blocks, holistic and cranberry of warts/skin tags/comedones. Face & Figure Center Manila is located at 1100 Medical Plaza Ortigas Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 7060209 and 7060000.

Where style is created

Hair Dick Salon opens an outlet in Podium 30, Makati City. With the motto, "where style is created," Hair Dick aims to supply the best services and treatments that would enhance the physical appearance of clients.

58 nail colors

Bobbie Nail Care offers 58 in Platinum, Pure White, Natural Tint, Sheer, Ever After, Spare the Date, I Do, Butterfly Kisses, Flower Girl and First Dance. Bobbie Nail Creme has 58 shades to choose from, among them Mahjo, Mint Cappuccino, Wang Wang, Tropical Punch and more.

Gifts for a special man

ON FATHER'S DAY, EBEC.BAD FELLERLIFE (Street Selling's wide range of fragrances and apparel brands.

Offer dad your wish for a steadfast love of family with Fidelity Green, which brings out the family man in him with its fougère marine notes. Let dad capture the passion and luxury of life with Salvaggio Fire, which captivates his fiery side with its elegant aromatic scent. For a taste of the good life, the new Dark Luxury is perfect for him, an elegant, luxurious scent with a haunting blend of fougère and amber notes.

Find Hill Blue, with citrus marine notes, radiates freshness and passion for exploration. Bring out dad's love for the outdoor and mysterious with Midnight, with an aromatic woody scent. Dad can explore his daring, bold side with Rebellious or Mist, with citrus woody scent and. If Not Him with its citrus fougère fragrance radiate positive attitude and excitement for more explorers in the future.

Poison Silver, a musky citrus scent, lets him achieve the confidence he needs as he takes on life's challenges everyday. Succeed more and self-assurance, give dad City Lone 24 Hour Deodorant Mists, which provides high or levels of anti-perspirant protection for strenuous activities.

Comfort is not luxurious with for dad and you can give him that with Master T shirts and underwear, which boast of 100% cotton and stylish design.

Convey your wish of a good life with Fellerlife Magic Tridentia, whose silver gray fibrite takes on an eye-catching Gaelic design the moment it gets wet. Its interlacing pattern portrays a never-ending path that symbolizes the continuation of life, love and fate. You can get this for only P179 with every P700 worth of product purchase featured from pages 1-16 of the Fellerlife June 16-30 brochure.

June 16-30 brochure.

Game! Body Spray, a high-performance revitalizing body spray, is made for highly energetic men. Get it for only P60 with every P600 worth of purchase from products featured from pages 4-15 of the Fellerlife June 16-30 brochure.

Call the toll free number 1-800-10-FELLER (1-800-10-3855371).

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

'Flapjack' contest

CARTOON NETWORK'S LATEST ANIMATED SERIES, "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack," premieres this whole week (starting yesterday). The series follows the comical adventures of a sea-faring tree. A contest, dubbed "Flapjack's Treet by Teetle Treasure Hunter," will be launched Aug. 1 at Mall of Asia. Also, tune in to the show for access codes.

KID FIT

Trivia: Dougs' very first talent was Pip

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"NINO he never let me forget it," says Trixie Cruz-Ti

ACTOR TIRSO "PIP" CRUZ III says he has become the answer to the top pop trivia question Dems does: Who was the first cohost (her Douglas Quijano managed?

When Douglas was alive (he passed on last yesterday), Pip tells Inquirer Entertainment, "He would remind me of that whenever we saw each other."

Except that, when they first met in the late 1960s, the term "manager" wasn't being used yet. "Our arrangement was very informal," Pip recounts. "He practically discovered me."

Pip was only 14 when Dou pian sponsor the young singer at El Bodegon on Del Pilar Street in Manila.

"My uncle Joey Cruz co-owned the bar and Douglas would go there for a few drinks after work [at the Daily Star]," Pip remembers.

Douglas was already a "popular and respected writer then," says Cruz. "[So Joey asked if he would help out break into show biz."

"One of the kindness of his heart," Pip adds. "He got me my first gig at the National Press Club, where he introduced me

TURN TO P2

You're in the middle of your fifth beer and your boss still thinks you're hard at work.

So my phone 871 Duo, change the background sound you want your callers to hear. May Duo! SIM features no and very affordable prices! P3,795.* It's my phone from my country. Visit our phone bo

my phone

871Duo

*Suggested retail price

GARFIELD

A. LIPIN

FUSAO BARDY

DICK TRACY

LOVEKNOTS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULOOK

BEN

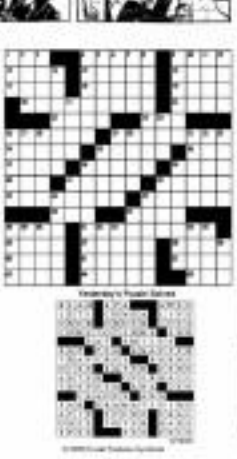
ATOMO AND WEBOY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS GRAVE

ESKO MACHINE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			7					1
			2					6
		8			6		2	
		1			4		8	
		6				5		
	3		9			7		
	5		8			3		
3				1				
7				5				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

5	2	8	6	7	1	3	4	9
7	3	9	5	4	8	6	2	1
6	4	1	2	9	3	7	8	5
9	1	5	4	8	7	2	3	6
3	8	2	9	5	6	1	7	4
4	6	7	1	3	2	5	9	8
8	5	3	7	6	4	9	1	2
2	7	6	8	1	9	4	5	3
1	9	4	3	2	5	8	6	7

PRACTICALLY the whole industry turned up at Douglas Quijano's snake at Heritage Park in Taguig. He will be cremated tomorrow after a Mass at 11 a.m.

Trivia: Dougs' . . .

From page F1

moviegoer newcomers."

That started the ball rolling for Cruz, who would later signed up with Sampaguita Pictures and became half of the legendary love team Guy & Pip, with Nora Aunor.

In the late 1960s and early '70s, when Pip joined Tower Productions under director Artemio Marquez, Douglas, as company publicist, was there again to back him up. "Our first big hit was 'El Shaneel Teenage Idols,' in 1969."

Professionalism

Shangpe and various Alfie Lorenzo recalls, "In Tower, I kept pushing Manny de Leon as Guy's partner. But Douglas was the strongest supporter of the Guy & Pip tandem."

Pip says Douglas insisted in him the importance of positive attitudes. "He told me not to compete with others, only with myself. He wasn't just a manager to me. I'm proud to say he was my mentor and, eventually, a close family friend."

From after the breakup of Guy & Pip, Douglas remained in Pip's life and careers in the mid-'80s. Pip staged a comeback with several Guy & Pip reunion movies arranged by Elwood Perez, that became box-office hits. "Till We Meet Again," "I Can't Stop Loving You," and the award-winning "Marupok Ito ang Bituin sa Langit."

"Even though we didn't talk [often], whenever I got an offer from Regal Films, I knew he was instrumental in that," Pip says.

He learned of Douglas' passing through wife Cynia, who was notified first by close sisy.

Immediately, he got on the phone with Gelli de Belen, one of Douglas' constant talents. "I guess but the names of the constant people in Heritage Park. I know the people there because I also helped in the wake of Dolphy [Rudy Fernandez]."

Pip says he will remember Douglas as a "happy-go-lucky guy and a true friend, "a rarity in show biz."

E-mail: bayanisandiego@inbox-mail.com

Denzel picks his champs: Pacquiao and Lakers

From page F4

ing a film," Denzel and Paulette have reportedly been helping John avoid his wife Kelly Preston deal with their tragic loss.

Filming on the subway was surprisingly a pleasant experience, according to Denzel. "Not as many rats as I expected," he said. "I don't think they like the noise."

Being on the subway took Denzel back to his childhood. "I took the subway from age 2," he recounted. "Whenever age I turned, I said, 'If I ever get two dollars to rub together, I'm never going to take the subway again' because I lived up in Mount Vernon. I had a two-hour ride every day to school."

Three days, Denzel, being one of Hollywood's top actors, no longer has to deal with ride commutes, of course. But he downplayed his extraordinary life by saying, "Living [in fact] is extraordinary. Just being on this side of the grass is a gift, so I don't take that for granted. Actually, it's been rare a year that I've been living a relatively ordinary life—raising the kids and working."

The four "kids" are all grown. He said his eldest, John David, is an awesome producer on "The Book of Eli." "My daughter Katia is working in a film editing room this summer. My youngest, Olivia, is going to college so not—I was so relieved that she is very good [at acting] because I told her that I was going to be honest with her."

What he's learned

DENZEL and Paulette's fourth child is Malcolm. Like his twin sister Olivia, Malcolm "took me a point guard in his high school basketball team] is college-bound. "They're all this high, much more than I am," the proud dad added.

On working with his son, the award-winning Elmo Goldie Child said, "The other day, they asked what I have learned. I was like, 'I'm learning to keep my mouth shut.' It's a tricky balance. You do let them go, they go to college, they come back and they have an opinion. You have to respect it and not crush their spirit."

Asked if he's interested in playing Martin Luther King, Denzel, who is 54, replied, "I think I am too old to play him. He died when he was 39."

E-mail the columnist at rempalo1504@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Pipatio Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/inquirerpost.

Denzel picks his champs: Pacquiao and Lakers

LOS ANGELES—DENZEL WASHINGTON, an avowed Manny Pacquiao fan who personally congratulated the Pinoy boxer after watching his KO Ricky Hatton in Las Vegas last month, is also a diehard Lakers supporter.

Now big, a fan is Denzel of the Los Angeles basketball team, which won the NBA championship last Sunday? In an interview before the NBA finals, Denzel, who stars in "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3," admitted he'll be close to attending a Lakers game instead of rehearsing with US President Barack Obama when the latter was in town for a Democratic Party fundraising event several weeks ago.

"I want to apologize to him (Obama)," Denzel said. "He had a big fundraiser Jeffrey Katzenberg, one of the executives, called me," Denzel confessed, laughing. "I didn't go because the Lakers were playing. I went to the Lakers game instead. Mr. O[bama] has been very kind and gracious to me and my family. I got to introduce him at the first inaugural ball when they opened the show at the Lincoln Memorial. That was a real thrill."

Wrong part

DENZEL shared an anecdote about attending Obama's historic inauguration: "I saw Jessye Anderson by himself. I told him, 'You're as much an anyone the reason that Obama is up there.' He got a little surprised, too. Obama was probably still in college when Jessie took a shot at it (was his presidency)."

Back to the Lakers. Whenever possible during the basketball season, Denzel and his wife Pauletta are in their seats. Ever seen courtesy by the late Walter Matthau, by coincidence, in the remake of the 1974 movie, "Pelham 1 2 3." Denzel plays Garber, the role tackled by Walter in the original. John Travolta has the Robert Shaw role in director Tony Scott's very effective update of the New York subway crime-thriller drama.

While John obviously has fun in the role of a train hijacker, Denzel holds his own as the subway dispatcher who deals with the terrorist. Still, Denzel claimed that John's was the meatier role. He explained, "The first day John started shooting, I was like, 'I'm playing the wrong part.' I just finished a film [The Book of Eli] which will be out next year. Gary Oldman is the bad guy. I have to think a bad guy makes a play because definitely it is a lot easier fun."

The actor was being modest. It's a tribute to Denzel's acting skills and screen presence that his "good guy" character is just as riveting.

Since he and John are perfectly matched for the running on and mentor game portrayed on the screen, Denzel was asked if there's a project that would star them again. "There are no plans but I would love to work with him again," he answered. Denzel said of John, who is still grieving over the death of his son, Jett, last January and bogged off from the media promotion activities of "Pelham 1 2 3": "I love John. He's a beautiful human being. And this was one of the most pleasant experiences I've ever had. took.

DENZEL 11

"WHEN he started shooting," Denzel Washington (left) says of John Travolta (right), his "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3" co-star, "I was like, 'I'm playing the wrong part.'"

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ambeth V. Ocampo

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Visit your favorite Ayala Malls Cinemas tickets booths or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.

CHEER FACTOR

Letterman apology accepted

LOS ANGELES... Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin has accepted late-night TV host David Letterman's apology over a sexually charged joke about her teenage daughter. "Of course it's accepted on behalf of young women, like my daughters, who have more to [do] about people displays of sexual exploitation of girls will soon evolve," Palin said in a statement late on Monday night.

Earlier, Letterman apologized on a group of Palin supporters planned a rally demanding that he be fired.

"I told a joke that was beyond flawed, and my intent is completely unapologetic," Letterman said in the opening of "Late Night with David Letterman." Reuters

LIVING Stars

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment
Edna Simeon G. Velarde
Mail feedback: inquirer.net nasa/ego city/manager to 2922 (Globe) and 292 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

CRYSTALLE HENARES

TAIL TALES

MAUI IS A YORKSHIRE TERRIER. HE'S around 3 years old. We bought in his parents from the United States. They passed away of really because of kidney problems. Maui is very low maintenance. He's a very sweet dog, very playful with children. — Maribel R. Cruz

INSIDE

A visit to Epy's 'museum'
Homebody
Page /G4

LIMITED PERIOD ONLY! DON'T MISS OUR BIG PROMO!

BUY 1 TAKE 1 ON DIAMOND PEEL from June 15-20, 2009 only

THE GIFT OF GLOWING SKIN NEVER SO AFFORDABLE!

Shine in your natural beauty even without makeup – just softer, smoother, and clearer skin. Acne scars, age spots, fine lines, uneven skin tone, clogged pores, all gone! Getting radiant skin is now made affordable with a promo you just can't resist, so hurry!

Don't waste time! Call now for a FREE consultation.

892-SKIN (7546)

facial care CENTRE

MAKATI • ORTIGAS • TOMAS MORATO • BINONDO • ALABANG • BMAR • CONGRESSIONAL • PAMPANGA (551-8404) • CEBU (233-7551)

DIAMOND PEEL has been tried and tested, and is highly recommended by...

"Thanks to Diamond Peel, people still find me pretty even if I don't wear makeup!" – Agot Isidro, Actress

"I'm a big fan of Diamond Peel. I make it a point to get it every two weeks, and most especially when I have an upcoming shoot or event. I put on a lot of makeup with my work so it's important to rejuvenate my skin with Diamond Peel." – Angel Jacob, Celebrity

"I don't like peels that are obvious, the ones that make the skin dry and flaking. That's why I love Diamond Peel. My skin's dead cells are removed, plus my pores are minimized." – Carmi Martin, Actress/Interior Designer

"I noticed a change in my face when I had Diamond Peel. It became firmer and my skin tone evened out. People I work with notice the difference, too." – Donna Cruz-Lamazabal, Actress

"It actually feels like a tiny vacuum on your face. I feel all the clogged pores are being sucked out clean. I love how my skin looks and feels after." – Amina Aranas-Aluman, Bag Designer

"I like how Diamond Peel clears up my skin's old layer and makes the face smoother." – Cherie Gil, Actress

SM CINEMA

WATCH THE MOVIE ON JUNE 24 AT SM NORTH EDSA & GET A FREE TRANSFORMERS PREMIUM ITEM!

IN IMAX THEATRE, SM DIGITAL THEATERS & SM CINEMAS JUNE 24 WEDNESDAY

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

THE PODIUM

ECHELON CONSPIRACY
LATE SHOWINGS

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

IMAX

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
MONSTERS VS ALIENS (3D)

STAR TREK (3D)
GEA MONSTERS (3D)

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

ECHELON CONSPIRACY

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMAS BRANCHES

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 ECHELON CONSPIRACY
3
4 THE COFFIN
5 DRAG ME TO HELL
6 MOTHER OF TEARS
7
8 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
10 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2

ERMITA

1 THE COFFIN
2 ECHELON CONSPIRACY
3 MOTHER OF TEARS
4 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
5
6 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
7

METRO EAST

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
3 THE COFFIN
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 MOTHER OF TEARS
6 ECHELON CONSPIRACY
7 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
8 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS

NOVALICHES

1 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
2 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
3 THE COFFIN
4 ECHELON CONSPIRACY

PIONEER

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 ECHELON CONSPIRACY
3 MOTHER OF TEARS
4 THE COFFIN

STA. ROSA

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 IP MAN

LIPA

1 IP MAN
2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
4 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND

DASMARINAS

1 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND
2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
4 SHINJUKU INCIDENT

IMUS

1 THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 RESERVE
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
6 RESERVE

STARMILLS

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 HOUSE
3 AMUSEMENT
4 IP MAN
5 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
6 DRAG ME TO HELL

ANGELES

1 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
2 DRAG ME TO HELL
3 IP MAN
4 SHINJUKU INCIDENT

TACLOBAN

1 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU

BACOLOD

1 IP MAN
2 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
5 HOUSE
6 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS

ILOILO

1 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
2 ANGELS & DEMONS
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2
4 DRAG ME TO HELL
5 FROM WITHIN
6 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS

ARTIST Jerome Ayroso Reyes in the yard of his home-cum-art studio in Bacoor, Cavite

A house...

From page G4

open to all visitors.

On the terrace, Ejay's favorite spot, sits a native dugout (bantayok) embellished with rarahan leaves. This was created by world-renowned Baguio-based artist Ben Hur Villanueva.

Also on the balcony is a golden gazebo and mini-pond, where Misha keeps her pet fish. The pond is also home to miniature figures of Buddha, an anito and Jesus Christ. The Anito sculpture is by Ben Hur's son Rambo and is called "Thy Will Be Done."

Ejay loves hanging out on the terrace, where he reads this interesting papers. "From our unit has two balconies, we get great views of the city," he says. "From one side, I can see the sunrise; from the other, the sunset."

Living in a condo, he reflects, "allows a person to see the world revolving because, in different times of the year, the position of the sun changes. It permits you to reconnect with life. It reminds you where you've been."

Yet another favorite nook is the den, "my play and work area."

Scattered in the work station are different musical instruments, like guitars and a percussive 4-chan especially made by Vic Morcado. The den is where Ejay composes songs. He has collaborated with musicians like Alex Cruz on the CD "Hinkaths" and presented the album at the hotel EDSA.

"Hinkaths" (reminiscent) are displayed in the den, along with posters of the three most significant movies in his career—"Rainbows: Gumboi Guy," "Ralyo" and "Fancy Blondie."

Also in the den is a gift from "Fancy Blondie" director Joyce Gallaga, a photograph entitled "The Masculine Triptych"—a scene from Gallaga's film "Virgin Forest."

Though busy with the GMA 7 series "Lipstick" and the QTV comedy show "Camera Cafe," Ejay finds time for indie movies like Jon Red's "Berchanan." He's flying to Tacloban next month to shoot Cesario short filmmaker Wil Fring Ho's full-length debut, "Pinay Inday."

When he's home, Ejay watches our film after another on the DVD player. "I'm a movie freak. Watching award-winning films actually relaxes me."

E-mail: bgcarcasadiego@hotmail.com

PLAYING the bikes inside his Vic Morcado

CANDLE art by Edwin de la Torre

DEN doubles as play area for daughter Misha and work station for dad Ejay

S.M. STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL
CINEMA THEATRE
1 WAKE OF THE DRAGON PG-13
2 THE SCREAMING MAN PG-13
3 SEMPRINTE HOLIDAY PG-13
4 DRAG ME TO HELL R-18
5 SCHOOL OF CONSPIRACY PG-13
6 THE SWORD OF THE LAST WARRIOR PG-13
7 DRAG ME TO HELL R-18
8 SEMPRINTE HOLIDAY PG-13
9 SCHOOL OF CONSPIRACY PG-13
10 THE MOTHER OF TEARS R-18
10 THE SCREAMING MAN PG-13
NOW SHOWING SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 TAKING OF PELHAM PG-13 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
2 SCHOOL CONSPIRACY PG-13 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
3 TERMINATOR: SALVATION PG-13 1:10, 3:50, 6:20, 9:00
4 DRAG ME TO HELL R-18 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 PG 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
TRANSFORMERS 2 TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!
Shangri-la Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
1 WAKE OF THE DRAGON
2 DRAG ME TO HELL
PROMENADE
3 THE LOVES
4 SCHOOL CONSPIRACY
5 THE SWORD OF THE LAST WARRIOR
MAGIC 8?

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
Showing Schedules Prices Subject To Change Without Prior Notice
SHANG CINEPLEX
GREENHILLS CINEMAS
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
Walter Mart

At the Cinemas
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 1
GREENBELT 2
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET!MARKET!
TRINOMA
For verification, please call 730-7777
Ayala Malls

"...IT'S PRIME TIME!"
TRANSFORMERS
THE GRAND ROLL-OUT
JUNE 27 (Sat.)- TriNoma Cinema Lobby
JUNE 28 (Sun.)- Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby

At the Malls
GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
ONSTAGE

THE A-LIST LIVE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE AYALA MALLS

A house of mirth

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Joseph Aglanoll

WELCOME TO MY humble abode," actor-photographer-painter Epy Quizon tells guests entering the condo unit he shares with fiancée Rosanna Ravalero and their three-year-old daughter Misha.

Clearly a child rules this 200-sq m space because toys are strewn all over the floor alongside the colorful plastic cars is a vintage wooden rocking horse from Tenahoias.

Epy gladly admits: "I'm my daughter's slave."

His entire universe revolves around his children. (He has an older son, now 14, who visits when school's out.)

Epy moved in here almost four years ago, "when it became clear to me that I was about to start a family."

Transition

The change of address marked a welcome transition in his life.

"My priorities changed," he recounts. "Suddenly it's not just about me, and my dreams are no longer limited to self-centered goals."

His bonding time with little Misha is usually spent drawing, coloring and sketching.

Like her parents, Misha is an artist and her doodles are displayed proudly along with her parents' paintings.

Antiques

Family project is the Vision Board in the master bedroom. Posted on the board are Epy and Rosanna's dreams—like building an eco-farm and rejuvenation and wellness resort in Batangas.

Epy says Rosanna, who's also a writer for a glossy magazine, is into alternative healing and New Age philosophies.

Attached to the chairs and sofas are Feng Shui mirrors, which Rosanna likes to hang.

Epy and Rosanna's Ng design and living ideas gelled instantly.

"We like the same things," he notes. "We both collect masks. Mine are from Indonesia; hers are from Mexico. We are both into world cultures and indigenous arts."

Displayed all over the home are Mo and Awra ceramics from their travels here and abroad, including papier mâchés, statues and wooden cabinets from Vigan, a Lotus Head figure and Tibetan singing bowls from Thailand.

Epy makes it a point to expose his children to various cultures and art pieces. A virtual museum, his home leans closely to the design aesthetic he calls "hugong luma"—modern antique. "I'm partial to wood and old stuff."

Dolphy's been here

His dad, King of Comedy Dolphy, has visited this pad. "He finds it cool," Epy says, "though it's the total opposite of his own home."

Apart from Epy's and Rosanna's paintings, works by Hermes Magat, Ji Villanueva and Ernesto Bellora hang on the walls.

Recently, Epy launched his website (www.bayanansanjuan.com), an online gallery

Actor-painter-photographer Epy Quizon envisions his condo unit as a virtual museum, but one that is ruled by a child

WESTERN UNION
presents
Gintong GALING
NG PINOY CONCERT
FEATURING JERICHO ROSALES WITH CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA, YENG CONSTANTINO AND CHOKOLIT
JULY 4, 2009 • MANILA • ALIW THEATER, CCP COMPLEX 7:30PM - TALENT SEARCH FINALS 8:15PM - CONCERT
50% DISCOUNT
FOR GOLD CARD HOLDERS
REGULAR TICKET PRICES: P1,000 - P1,500 - P1,200 - P800 - P500